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■ **Presidential candidate Michael Badnarik speaks to listeners during one of many recent radio interviews.**

Badnarik on at least 48 ballots

tunity to vote for the Libertarian candidate, and the LP is still the undisputed champion of ballot access among all third parties," according to Bill Redpath, the party's national ballot access coordinator.

The LP is still litigating in Oklahoma, and as *LP News* went to press, it appeared the party had barely missed meeting the requirements in New Hampshire — though a last-minute change of fortune was possible.

Nonetheless, Redpath said the most likely outcome is that the party will miss 50-state ballot access for the first time since 1988.

"Nobody wanted 50-state access more than I did," said Redpath, who has spearheaded three of the last four ballot access drives. "But at

this point, it looks like we're going to fall short and hit either 48 or 49 states, with 50 states being an extremely remote possibility."

The difficulty in New Hampshire caught everyone by surprise, according to Redpath, because ballot access in that state is relatively easy. Just 3,000 valid signatures are required — 1,500 in each Congressional district.

According to the secretary of state, state party officials turned in only 929 valid signatures in the first district and 1,263 in the second district by the Aug. 11 deadline.

Redpath attributed the problem to "confusion" within the state party.

"The party was petitioning to get specific candidates on the ballot, and some of the petitions being circulated did not include Badnarik's name," he said. "Only those petitions with Badnarik's name on them counted toward getting him on the ballot."

John Babiarz, chairman of the New Hampshire LP, said, "Unfortunately, we did have two different valid petition forms. One of them had Badnarik's name on it, and the other one did not."

Some of the petition forms were signed before Badnarik was selected as the party's nominee in Atlanta over Memorial Day weekend, so his name couldn't have been included, Babiarz noted.

Redpath and Babiarz agreed that

confusion also existed about how many signatures had been collected.

"I don't think anybody had a good grip on the numbers," Redpath said. "This was just a case of poor

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LP candidate competes in Olympic fencing



■ **Cody Mattern**

In August, the Libertarian Party's candidate for Oregon state House of Representatives (District 35) took time to go to Athens for the Olympic Games.

But Cody Mattern, the 23-year-old from Tigard, Ore., wasn't sitting in the stands watching others participate in the games. As one of the best fencers in the world, he was a participant himself — competing in men's epee, both individual and team.

Mattern is a two-time national fencing champion. He began fencing nine years ago and became U.S. Junior Champion two years later.

He also took a silver medal at a Vancouver World Cup event this March, defeating several of the world's best fencers, and was considered a contender for the medals podium in Athens. The last time an American won an Olympic medal in men's individual epee was in 1928, so hope was high for the U.S. team this year.

But it wasn't to be: Mattern finished in 19th place, losing to a Hungarian fencer in his first round. Later, on the last day of fencing competition at the Games, the U.S. men's team lost to the French team, which went on to win the gold medal.

Since graduating from high school — he was homeschooled by a friend's parents, with whom he lives — Mattern has worked as a carpenter. He managed the construction of his fencing club, the Northwest Fencing Center and is now a fencing instructor at the center.

See **OLYMPICS** Page 3

TV ad fund set up to promote candidates

Want to see a Michael Badnarik for President commercial in your community? Then turn on your television, because the Libertarian Party has come up with a creative way to ensure that Americans in all 50 states can see hard-hitting ads for the party's presidential candidate and other Libertarian candidates for federal office.

The Badnarik campaign has already run hundreds of TV ads in New Mexico, Nevada and other states, on national shows including "Larry King Live," "The O'Reilly Factor," and "Meet the Press." But because the campaign can't afford to run ads in all 50 states, many Americans haven't had a chance to see them.

In addition, many Libertarians who have given the maximum \$2,000 contribution to the campaign want to help put more ads on the air and cannot legally contribute.

To solve these problems, the Libertarian National Committee (LNC) has set up a special fund to raise money to buy airtime for federal candidates, including Badnarik, LP National Chair Michael Dixon says.

"The fund that we created — the Federal Candidates Airtime Fund — is legally separate from any particular campaign," he said. "So even if you've already given the maximum \$2,000 to any federal campaign, you can still contribute to this fund."

Contributions to the new fund are governed by the \$25,000-per-individual donation limit to the national party. So if, for example, you have given \$15,000 to the national LP, you could give an additional \$10,000 to the airtime fund.

The LP's new ad campaign fund also addresses the concerns of many Libertarians who specifically want to see TV ads in their own communities.

"We'll be able to guarantee that the ads to which you contribute will be seen in your media market," Dixon said. "Here's how: We will note the geographic area of each contributor. If Libertarians in your media market contribute enough money to pay for an ad buy, we will purchase time on a local network affiliate in your area."

"If there aren't enough contributions from a particular area to make

a local buy, we will pool that money with other contributions to make a national buy. The bottom line is that every contributor will get to view the ad to which they contributed — on live television!"

"If people have already given the maximum donation they can give to the Badnarik campaign, we'd certainly encourage them to donate to this fund," said Fred Collins, Badnarik's campaign manager. "Money donated to this fund is certainly going to help Badnarik's campaign. And airing these ads will also benefit the Libertarian Party as a whole." In August, the Badnarik campaign ran hundreds of television and radio commercials in New Mexico. The campaign polled before and after the ad run, and Badnarik's name recognition almost doubled — going from 28 percent before the commercials ran to 50 percent afterwards, said Steven Gordon, communications director for the campaign.

At the same time, the percentage of people who had heard of the Libertarian Party also increased dramatically, rising from 67 percent to

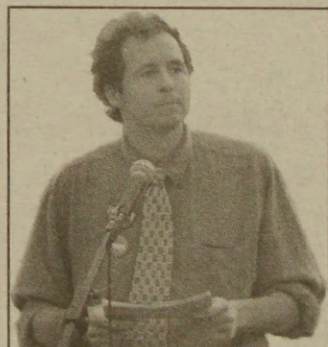
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NEWS BRIEFS

Vermont gun owners endorse Libertarian

Gun Owners of Vermont (GOV) has endorsed Libertarian Hardy Machia's campaign for governor.

The GOV endorsed Republican James Douglas in 2002, but Douglas lost the support of the states gun owners association when he made a deal with the federal government to have Vermont's law enforcement agencies enforce the federal gun laws.



■ Hardy Machia

Federal gun laws are much more stringent than Vermont's laws; Vermont has never required a permit for gun ownership or for carrying firearms. Some of the state's very few gun laws prohibit carrying a firearm to school or carrying a loaded firearm with the intent to harm someone.

Under the new agreement with the federal government, Vermont citizens may now be sent to jail for possessing a firearm or ammunition if they have a prior conviction of drug possession or a record of mental health counseling, or if they have been the subject of a restraining order.

"It's ridiculous that upstanding Vermonters can no longer protect their families or hunt [simply because] they smoked some marijuana as a kid or needed counseling after serving their nation in combat," GOV president Ed Cutler said — referring to the thousands of Vietnam War and Gulf War veterans who received mental health services following combat.

"Worse still, our attorney general has volunteered Vermont's already strained troopers and game wardens to do the feds' work for them, and Gov. Douglas has done nothing to stop it," added Cutler.

Machia said he was pleased with the endorsement, which came at a GOV Candidate Forum co-sponsored by Hunters, Anglers and Trappers of Vermont, the Ethan Allen Institute and Property Owners Standing Together.

"I'm proud that my principles and message instill confidence in ordinary Vermonters that — on issues of important civil liberties or just common sense — I am the best candidate for a free Vermont," he said.

Libertarians defend ads by '527' groups

Both President George W. Bush and John Kerry have publicly called for an end to some or all political advertising by "527 groups," which are independent groups that participate in political advertising outside of the political party system.

Examples of 527 groups include MoveOn.org and Swift Boat Veterans for Truth — which are, respectively, anti-Bush and anti-Kerry organizations.

These groups received their name (527) from the section of federal tax law that regulates them.

Currently, 527 groups are not bound under campaign finance restrictions so long as their advertising is not coordinated with any political campaign or party.

But both Bush and Kerry support new legislation that would make such groups illegal by closing what they consider to be loopholes in existing campaign finance law.

"Silencing 527s runs contrary to the First Amendment," said Patrick Dixon, chairman of the Texas LP — pointing out that eliminating such groups would worsen a political system that is already dedicated to silencing dissenting views.

"The Democrats and Republicans already have money and power. They appear to fear the inevitable growth of third parties."

And the two largest political parties want to erect even more obstacles to prevent political dissent.

Recent campaign finance laws — such as the McCain-Feingold Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act — "have made it even more difficult for third parties to compete," he said. "The only recourse third parties have for fund raising is through 527 organizations, and now they want to abolish them."

By supporting further restrictions on political contributions, Bush and Kerry have proven once again that they aren't concerned with First Amendment rights, Libertarian presidential candidate Badnarik said.

"The Texas Democratic Party has already conceded the state and has told its members not to support the Kerry campaign," Dixon said. "Michael Badnarik gladly accepts the challenge to take on George Bush and defend the freedom of speech."

Libertarian engineer elected to city council in Alabama



■ Tim Cowles, recently elected to the Madison, Ala., city council, is also vice president of the town's Greenways & Trails Committee and a member of various conservation organizations. He is shown on one of the city's trails with teens from the community.

A Libertarian activist was elected to the Madison, Ala., city council on Aug. 24, defeating the incumbent by a two-to-one margin in the non-partisan race.

Madison is one of the fastest-growing cities in the state, growing from 29,300 to 34,080 residents between 2000 and 2003.

The Madison city clerk's office announced that Tim Cowles received 801 votes to defeat two-term incumbent Jim Reagan for the city's 4th District council seat. Reagan received 410 votes.

All seven city councilmen are elected every four years. Five incumbents ran for re-election, and Reagan was the only one to be defeated.

Cowles (pronounced "coals") is getting ready to take action when his four-year term begins in October. A member of the Libertarian Party for about 10 years, he said his libertarian beliefs will "certainly come into play" in the decisions he makes on the council.

"It's going to be a struggle to keep government from expanding," he said. "People want a lot of money for things that benefit small groups in the city. I want to keep money going to things that benefit everyone, such as roads and infrastructure, instead of to projects that benefit only a few people."

Cowles said there are "a lot of inefficiencies in the city government, including a couple of departments I can think of [the information technology department among them] that could easily be contracted out."

"I have already spoken with one of the incumbents who was re-elected — he's a fiscal conservative — about some of the departments that should be privatized, and I think we'll be able to save the city a lot of money that way," he said.

"While the city council isn't the place to debate the details of libertarian philosophy, I think the basic philosophy that government needs to be small and efficient will cer-

tainly come into play as I try to make the best decisions for my constituents."

As an engineer and a project manager for the Army's Space and Missile Defense Command, Cowles "will be a good representative of his region," said Steven Gordon, vice chairman of the Alabama Libertarian Party, noting that Madison is a suburb of Huntsville, and the area has a high concentration of high-tech firms.

And he will also be a good elected representative of the Libertarian Party, Gordon added. Cowles was a delegate to the party's national convention in Atlanta, Ga., in

late May.

"Over the last two years the Libertarian Party in the Huntsville area has become a lot more active, and Cowles is an example of that," he said.

"People in Huntsville tend to be both fiscally conservative and cognizant of individual liberties, and I think it's very likely that we'll see a lot more Libertarians elected in northern Alabama soon. It's just another good day for libertarianism in Alabama."

Cowles said he wants to emphasize roads and other infrastructure during his time on the city council as well as ensuring that the city's residential property tax doesn't increase.

These are the two primary issues on which he ran — and they're apparently the reason he was elected.

Most of all, he said, he'll make sure he keeps the city's taxpayers in mind, not catering to any one group in the city at the expense of others.

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The Mission Statement of the Libertarian Party: "To move public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office."

Badnarik to appear on 48 state ballots

Continued from Page 1

management and poor planning." Babiarz added, "We also had some volunteers who promised to get certain numbers of petitions signed, and then didn't tell me until the very last minute that they hadn't gotten those signatures."

And by then it was too late. On Sept. 9, a few days after learning that the state party's petition drive had fallen short, Redpath said, "What just happened in New Hampshire is a sore point. It should have been so easy to get on the ballot there. This was an accident that could have been avoided with better communication and better coordination."

Libertarian U.S. Senate candidate Ken Blevins will also not appear on the New Hampshire ballot even though petitioners collected more than 3,000 signatures, because 1,136 signatures were collected in the first district and 2,076 in the second, instead of at least 1,500 in each.

Had either Badnarik or Blevins received 4 percent of the vote, the party could have avoided petitioning for ballot access in the future.

In mid-September, a new development occurred that gave the party "a glimmer of hope" of getting back on the ballot, Redpath said. Election officials in several towns who were supposed to mail completed petition forms to the LP, so the party could in turn deliver them to the state, failed to do so on time, causing "potentially hundreds" of signatures to go uncounted, according to the New Hampshire LP.

"If it turns out that this is what happened, and we can prove it, it's possible we could sue to get reinstated," Redpath said. "But I believe the chance of that happening is extremely remote."

Another possibility, Babiarz said,

is that Blevins or Badnarik could get 4 percent as a write-in candidate in November.

"It all depends on how much ground work we do between now and the election," he said. "Write-ins are very much a part of New Hampshire's electoral process, so it's still possible."

In Oklahoma, which has some of the toughest petitioning requirements in the nation, the LP is involved in a lawsuit to get on the ballot.

The petition drive fell short of the required 51,781 signatures, with Libertarians turning in only 26,462 — in part because the deadline for submitting signatures was moved up to May 1 from May 31.

In June, the party filed a lawsuit in state Superior Court seeking an injunction to get its candidate on the ballot, but the judge denied the request.

Noting that Oklahoma ballot access laws are among the most stringent in the nation, *Ballot Access News* publisher Richard Winger said, "One of the key things that's happened since the hearing was that election law was changed in Louisiana, making Oklahoma the sole state that still requires a third party to get signatures from 5 percent of the state's voters to get on the ballot."

The LP of Oklahoma hopes to present further evidence to the same judge who heard its case before in the hope of getting him to reverse his ruling. Failing that, the party may appeal to the state Supreme Court.

"The bottom line is that we still have a chance of getting on the ballot in Oklahoma, though I believe the odds are against us," Redpath said.

The LP also got a brief scare in early September when it appeared



■ Libertarian Party presidential candidate Michael Badnarik talks to one of his younger supporters during an Aug. 29 anti-war rally in Central Park in New York, N.Y.

the party had missed the ballot in Connecticut. But as it turned out, state election workers had misplaced several thousand signatures.

"We'd likely have missed the ballot in Connecticut if one of our activists hadn't been persistent in asking what the delay was," said Steve Gordon, communications director of the Badnarik for President campaign. "The petitions were miraculously 'found' after the LP made an issue of it."

While acknowledging that many Libertarians will be disappointed that the party has apparently fallen

short of its 50-state goal, Redpath said, "When I think back to how bad it could have been, I realize how remarkably well we did."

In March, he noted, getting Badnarik on the ballot in only 37 states was a distinct possibility. The LP was in danger of missing four of the six most populous states: Texas, Illinois, New York and Pennsylvania.

"But thanks to hard work and

several emergency fund-raising appeals, the party was able to rebound and get on the ballot in every one of those vote-rich states," Redpath said. "The fact remains that at least 98.4 percent of Americans will get a chance to vote for a Libertarian presidential candidate, so let's do everything we can between now and Election Day to help Badnarik get our message out."

Fund set up to promote federal candidates

Continued from Page 1
78 percent.

"As successful as these ads have been in the areas where we've shown them, many people haven't been able to see them," Collins said.

"We've had a very positive result from our TV commercials. We're showing people that there is a choice."

Libertarians may be the ones paying for the ads, but they're certainly not the only ones paying attention to them, said Barbara Goushaw-Collins, associate manager for the Badnarik campaign.

"When we were in New Mexico, Bush suddenly decided he would go there, too," she said. "He changed his calendar to get to an event in Albuquerque. While he was there he was challenged by the media as to

what effect the Badnarik campaign would have on his campaign.

"And it happened when we were in Nevada, too. The ad we ran there shows that both Bush and Kerry favor a draft. Kerry was in Nevada at the time, and he came out and said that under a Kerry administration there would be no draft — which is a complete reversal from what he had said before."

The campaign also announced new developments in its debate strategy — and already participated in one nationally televised third-party debate. On Aug. 31, Badnarik debated Green Party candidate David Cobb in New York City.

The debate aired on Labor Day — Monday, Sept. 6 — on C-Span.

Additional debates are also being planned, campaign workers said.

One is set for Sept. 30 on a college campus in Miami, Fla. All third-party presidential candidates have been invited, and Cobb has already confirmed that he will be there.

"Bush and Kerry will actually be debating right down the street the same day, so it will be pretty interesting," Goushaw-Collins said.

As of Sept. 20, when *LP News* went to press, the Badnarik campaign was waiting for confirmation from independent candidate Ralph Nader and Michael Peroutka of the Constitution Party, both of whom were expected to participate.

"There will be two debates people can watch that day," Gordon said. "One will offer no real choice or alternative, and the other will actually offer a real choice to the voters of America."

Olympics call Cody Mattern away from Oregon campaign

Continued from Page 1

Fencing appeals to Mattern because it is an individual sport in which there are no excuses: You win or lose based on your individual merit and effort, in a face-off against a sole competitor.

But he also told newspaper reporters in his region that fencing is a good background for a hopeful politician.

"When I compete, I like to know all the options," he told one newspaper reporter. "And I enjoy the problem-solving aspect that is different for every fencer I come up against."

With that in mind, his next major "contest" is facing Republican Suzanne Gallagher, Democrat Larry Galizio, Pacific Green Liz Trojan, Constitution Party member Ronald Brower, and independent Diane

Mandaville in the Nov. 2 general election for the state House seat.

It's one of the most crowded ballots in the state, for a seat left open when former Rep. Max Williams, a Republican, left the House to head the state's prison system earlier this year.

In a diary he wrote during his stay in Greece, Mattern reminded himself (and those who read the diary, which was published by an Oregon newspaper) that it's easy to get intimidated by a major competition like the Olympics, but a serious competitor must concentrate on the task at hand.

"As I have said before, if you're going to win, you have to beat the best," he wrote the day before facing his Hungarian opponent.

And that's as true in political competition as it is in fencing.

NEWS BRIEFS

Lessons learned in unsuccessful fight

Despite Libertarian opposition of increased school bonds in Ferris, Tex., property owners there will soon have the highest school taxes in the state. Following a September vote, the Ferris Independent School District board now has the authority to raise property taxes up to \$1.90 per \$100 of property valuation — 42 cents above the state average.

Up to \$45 million in bonds will soon be issued in the school district, which serves only 2,000 students, said Bill Walker, one of a few Libertarians who stepped up to fight the bonds.

"This isn't a major metropolitan area where they have guards and massive facilities," Walker said. "We're talking about a small, rural school district on the outskirts of Dallas."

Walker and Patricia Lee — a former teacher in the district — caught wind of the proposed bond issue shortly before the vote and handed out thousands of flyers explaining that the new bonds would drastically increase taxes.

The school board — not the board of elections — ran the election, they put up pro-tax signs in every school, and teachers got out on the streets getting people to fill out early voter forms, Lee said.

"And to add insult to injury, on the day of the vote the polling place at the junior high school was not marked outside with a single sign in English or Spanish," she said.

"The apathy level was amazing, especially among state election inspectors," Walker said. "We sent in a petition and forced a state inspector to come out here. The vote was held in a school. The school was covered with pro-tax signs, with pro-tax posters on easels in the lobby. Teachers were walking the town leafleting. The election inspector agreed that the signs were ethics violations, but said we would have to call the [state] Ethics Commission for that."

In the end, the new bonds (meaning higher taxes) were approved by only a 74-vote margin.

The defeat was upsetting, but there are lessons to be learned from the tax hike, Walker added. "If you're going to win, you have to start early, and you have to do this continually. Someone has to pay attention to what the school board is springing on you."

"If we had started even two weeks earlier, we could have raised questions that the school board couldn't answer."

Court: Feds must argue ID case publicly

Two years ago, Libertarian John Gilmore filed a lawsuit against a "secret" government rule that requires airline passengers to show identification before boarding a plane. The federal government wanted to keep Gilmore's case sealed, but a federal appeals court ruled on Sept. 10 that the government must argue the case in public.



■ Gilmore

The Justice Department argues that national security concerns make it necessary that directives dealing with transportation be kept secret. The department refuses to confirm or deny the existence of such a rule.

The lawsuit names U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, FBI Director Robert Mueller, Tom Ridge of the Office of Homeland Security and several other federal department heads — as well as Southwest and United airlines — as defendants.

Gilmore argues that the identification regulation is unconstitutional for several reasons: It is unpublished; it requires government agents to search citizens who are not suspected of crimes; it burdens the rights to travel, associate and petition the government; and it discriminates against those who choose anonymity.

Moreover, Gilmore argued that because the regulations are secret, they violate the federal Freedom of Information Act.

The suit stems from a July 4, 2002, incident. While trying to fly out of Oakland International Airport in California, Gilmore declined to show a government-issued photo identification to Southwest Airline employees who demanded to see such identification. He was then given conflicting information by employees as to whether the identification requirement was a government mandate or an airline regulation.

So he went to the San Francisco airport, where he encountered the same restriction: He couldn't fly without showing identification.

A life member of the Libertarian Party, Gilmore explained at the time that he was flying to Washington, D.C., to petition the federal government for a redress of grievances — specifically the ID requirement, according to *LP News* accounts in 2002 and 2003.

Airline employees eventually informed Gilmore that the airport was following security directives from the federal Transportation Security Administration and that the directives weren't available in writing.

Bludorn appealing to voters frustrated with GOP incumbent's legislative record



■ Scott Bludorn, LP candidate for Illinois state representative, was joined by 42 of his supporters in a Labor Day parade in Buffalo Grove, Ill. Standing to his left is his wife, Dana.

Scott Bludorn has knocked on more than 10,000 doors in recent months as he forwards his "front porch campaign" for Illinois state representative in District 53, and he promises to continue making personal visits to his potential constituents through Election Day.

Bludorn, the chair of the Libertarian Party of Cook County, is forming alliances with groups dedicated to low taxes and taxpayer rights, including Northwest TaxWatch.

A TaxWatch newsletter this spring noted that "Bludorn is not shy about challenging local government" and applauded his stance on several recent taxation issues in the region.

Bludorn and other Libertarians in the area were very active in this spring's fight against a referendum in which Prospect Heights officials tried to get Home Rule powers — which would have allowed them greater power to increase taxes without seeking a referendum, and would have given the municipality greater power to regulate.

The referendum in March was defeated with 65 percent of voters opposing it. The fact that Bludorn fought the measure was not lost on the voters and members of the Prospect Heights Residents for Responsible Government.

"They know I'm helping out in that cause, so they're getting behind me," Bludorn said.

The incumbent, Republican Sidney Mathias, has a record of "wasteful pork barrel spending" and has made "repeated attempts to weaken the caps on property taxes," Bludorn said — noting that Mathias's attempt to pass legislation that would allow property taxes to increase has angered homeowners in his district.

"This kind of deal-making and reckless spending is leading Illinois down the path to a California-style fiscal disaster," he continued. "I'm looking for the votes of Republicans fed up with corrupt politics-as-usual, of independents who want lower taxes and less government, and Democrats who oppose government intrusion into people's private lives."

Incumbent Mathias was elected to the state legislature in 1998. He

WHEN I KNOCK ON doors...all I have to do is show them his voting record. He's very weak. I really believe we're going to take this one.

—SCOTT BLUDORN

built up his political base as a local office holder, and his supporters strongly backed him when he ran for the state position. However, he has since lost 85 percent of his original district — thanks to new legislative district boundaries drawn after the 2000 census — weakening his position of power.

"He's in a newly configured district now, and he has never been forced to defend his record to his new constituents," Bludorn said.

"I'm reaching out to disaffected Republicans, showing them Mathias's voting record. When I knock on doors, if people plan to vote for

him because of some expectation of a fiscal conservative, all I have to do is show them his voting record. He's very weak. I really believe we're going to take this one."

There is also a Democrat candidate on the ballot, but he is "a paper candidate, a place holder on the ballot," Bludorn said. "This is a heavily Republican district, and the Democrats here don't put serious candidates forward."

Because he opposes allowing property taxes to skyrocket and is willing to fight hikes in the Illinois's income tax, Bludorn is drawing the support of frustrated Republicans, as he hoped.

Bludorn also noted that he has met a number of current — and former — members of the Libertarian Party as he knocks on doors throughout his district.

"There are apparently quite a few former members of the Libertarian Party here, people who are no longer active in the party but who are still continuing on in political activism," he said. "These people haven't dropped off the face of the earth, and I believe they'll get involved in the party again when they see a viable candidate for the state legislature."

Bludorn is a district manager for an industrial staffing company, and is a member of the Buffalo Grove Chamber of Commerce and the Staffing Services Association of Illinois.

He ran in 2003 for village trustee in Buffalo Grove, earning 1,114 votes — "about 40 percent of what each of the incumbents got," he said.

"Voters had to pick three out of the four of us. The three incumbents ran as a block, and they were all three re-elected."

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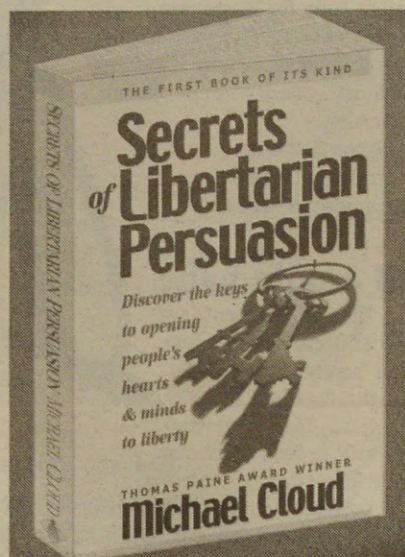
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TALKING POINTS

Forced price-setting, the new 'Geographic' and Communism

■ Call it what it is!

Some news organizations have been reluctant to use the term "terrorist" in their coverage of the Russian school massacre, preferring to use generic or neutral terms to describe those who took over the school last week and killed 326 adults and children.

"The school seizure was carried out by militants who appeared to be linked to guerrillas fighting for an independent Chechnya," the *Los Angeles Times* noted in an account yesterday.

The Associated Press preferred the term "Chechen rebels," as did Reuters, which came under criticism

three years ago for discouraging its reporters from using the term "terrorists" in Sept. 11 stories.

CNN has a different mind-set.

The news channel has called the school siege an "act of terrorism," "massacre," and "atrocities," and referred to the perpetrators as "terrorists" in no uncertain terms.

Although the *New York Times* referred to "terrorists" in a Sept. 2 account, stories that followed used "militants," "suicide bombers," "insurgents" and "hostage takers."

—JENNIFER HARPER
The Washington Times
September 9, 2004

■ They're heeeere...

Over 800,000 New Yorkers left during the convention. Boy, Bush really knows how to clear a room, doesn't he? 800,000 people leave town because of the Republican convention. They raise the terror alert in New York to elevated, no New Yorkers leave. A threat by al Qaeda to destroy our financial institutions, New Yorkers stand firm. Republicans come to town, and it's like, 'Get out of here!'

—JAY LENO
The Tonight Show
August 30, 2004

■ National Geo-lobby

This is not your father's *National Geographic* any more. Once a coffee table staple with gorgeous photos of people, places and things, it now more resembles a host of other slick lobbying mags, pushing today's popular issues.

Last month's cover story was "fat." What has that to do with geography, other than some people are skinny, some are large, and they all don't live in the same place? And obesity turns out to be a pretty slippery subject, given that what is fat today was considered healthy a century ago.

This month it's global warming, a subject that actually lends itself to quantitative fact-checking, of which *National Geographic* apparently did little.

Dispassionate objectivity and virtue are the claims of every lobby. So, on the masthead, editor Bill Allen informs us what's inside isn't "science fiction" and "we're not going to show you waves swamping the Statue of Liberty" (referring to this summer's ludicrous global warming flick, "The Day After Tomorrow"). He realizes what's inside may not jibe with the perceptions of some of us unfortunates who live outside

Georgetown, but he "can live with some canceled memberships" to tell what he calls "the biggest story in geography today."

Different scientific communities compete with each other for a finite (but large) amount of our tax dollars, and no one ever won out by saying his or her issue was not the world's most important problem. That makes great copy for Washington's other lobbies, like the National Geographic Society, now crusading against obesity and global warming.

—PATRICK J. MICHAELS
Cato Daily Commentary
September 9, 2004

■ A dole baby

The grandparents of a child conceived while her parents were both in the Crawford County [Ga.] Jail want the county to help them support the baby.

LaTonya Finney and boyfriend, Adrian Howard, were jailed in 2002 to await trial on robbery charges. While they remained behind bars, Finney became pregnant. Finney's parents now say that because their daughter was impregnated while in prison, Crawford County Sheriff Kerry Dunaway shares some of the responsibility — and the cost — while the tot's parents are both serving prison terms. The couple says the sheriff granted them a conjugal visit, but [the sheriff] says the man picked a lock and gained access to the women's portion of the prison to see his girlfriend.

—CNN.COM
August 2, 2004

■ Avoid poverty. Work.

One thing the pundits and presidential candidates didn't say much about is how much money has been spent fighting the "war on poverty" — \$9 trillion and counting. Yes, \$9 trillion.

Yet, as the Census Bureau just reported, poverty in America is up. So what do the candidates propose we do?

Well, one candidate believes the solution is to spend more money on social programs, while the other believes the solution is to spend more money on ... social programs. Since 2000, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (the traditional welfare program) spending has increased 6 percent. What did we get for that money? A higher poverty

rate.

The best way to reduce the poverty rate is to convince people to avoid poverty in the first place by finishing school, delaying parenthood, and getting a job (any job).

Getting a job as a solution to poverty may seem like common sense. Granted, not every job pays a wage that will catapult a family into the middle class. However, every job provides job experience, and that leads to a better job. Maybe today's minimum-wage, service industry employee is not on a track for management. But he is showing that he

from the many people I talk to is that there is no longer a Democratic party; that the Democrats have become like the Republicans. I think this is completely false. If anything, the Republican Party, the party of small government, of the United States has ceased to exist.

The Democrats have taken over. How else would you explain the biggest spending administration in the history of the United States under a so-called "Republican president"?

Consider George W. Bush's remarks during his acceptance speech concerning Medicare, enrolling children in a socialized medical scheme, creating more affordable homes, and on and on...

In America, this is called "democracy." It's called "democracy" because it is an "easier sell" to the average American. But what exactly is this "democracy"?

It is and always has been sold to you as a way to "level the playing field." It sounds really good: Share the wealth; there's plenty for everyone!

But when you get right down to it, "Sharing the wealth," is, in no uncertain terms, Communism. Think about it: What else could you possibly call it? What else could you call penalizing people with money to pay for people who don't have it? And you've got it, America. It came straight to you from Washington. Democrats and Republicans have brought it to you and are laying it right in your lap and you are eating it up.

Everyone with half a brain knows that the government can't do anything right. Everyone knows that anything the government tries to do will be over-budget, past deadline and screwed-up. Not only that, but the government will have to rip it all up in a few years and do it all over again.

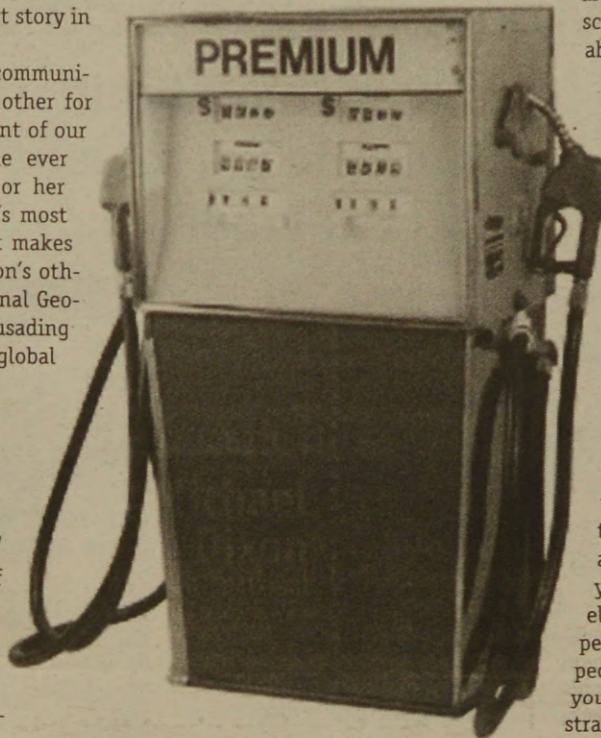
You don't think so? How about, say, the freeway you drive on every day? So why in the world do Americans want their government to control more and more of their lives? I know why: Because most Americans are Communists, they just don't call it that.

—MIKE ROGERS
LewRockwell.com
September 9, 2004

■ Hurt feelings

A man jailed for brutally murdering a teenage girl has been awarded \$1,200 (New Zealand) compensation for hurt feelings and humiliation while in prison. In a decision that prompted political anger, the Human Rights Review Tribunal said inmate Andrew MacMillan had suffered "injury to his feelings, loss of dignity and humiliation" when he was denied access to [a letter written about him]. MacMillan was jailed in 1988 for raping and killing Jayne McLellan, 17.

—ABC NEWS ONLINE
August 23, 2004



is a reliable worker who can learn and perform duties, something a future employer will value.

—JENNIFER ZEIGLER
Cato Daily Commentary
September 3, 2004

■ You must gouge!

When Maria Diep opened a new convenience store in Muskogee County, Okla., she thought she could stir up some business by knocking a nickel off the price of gasoline. She did. She also stirred up the interest of the district attorney's office, which told her to raise the price of gasoline, or else. Under a 1949 law, Oklahoma retailers must sell products for at least 6 percent more than they paid for them.

The DA's office said it received several calls about Diep's store and another convenience store that were selling gasoline below the prices charged by other stores in the area. Presumably, those calls were not from consumers.

—CHARLES OLIVER
Reason Online
September 1, 2004

■ Communist America

Regardless of what you want to call it, America is on the verge of a total and complete Communist takeover.

Just about everyone agrees that there is not much of a difference between the Republicans and the Democrats. I gather the insinuation

"THE SMALLEST MINORITY ON EARTH IS THE INDIVIDUAL."

— AYN RAND —

Not to argue with Ayn Rand (who would dare to?), but sometimes it seems that the smallest minority on Earth are the Libertarians. There just aren't as many of us as there should be. That's why the support of each individual Libertarian Party member is so crucial for our party to succeed. And Job One (for all of us) is to figure out ways to get more Libertarians. Here's one way you can do your part to help the party grow: Name the party in your will or insurance policy. For a confidential discussion of this option, call National LP Treasurer Mark Nelson at (563) 344-0013. Or e-mail him at: treasurer@lp.org, and include "Planned Giving" in the subject line.



National sales tax

President Bush said on Tuesday that abolishing the U.S. income tax system and replacing it with a national sales tax was an idea worth considering.

"It's an interesting idea," Bush told an "Ask President Bush" campaign forum here. "You know, I'm not exactly sure how big the national sales tax is going to have to be, but it's the kind of interesting idea that we ought to explore seriously."

Republican economists who speak regularly to the White House have said that the Bush campaign has been mulling the idea of an overhaul of the tax code as part of an agenda for a second term should Bush win re-election.

Some lawmakers have floated ideas of simplifying the tax code by putting in place a "flat" income tax rate or a national sales tax. But those ideas have so far not gained much traction in Congress. Opponents say such a system would not be in the best interests of the poor and the middle class who would pay the same tax rate as the wealthy even though they have less disposable income.

—REUTERS

August 10, 2004

Don't blame the cop

On June 26, 2002, Reno policeman Mike Scofield was heading to the scene of an accident at a high rate of speed, but didn't turn on his motorcycle siren. Anna Marie Jackson was pulling out of an office park driveway to make a left turn, and paused in the middle of the street in Scofield's path; Scofield, driving in the left lane, hit her SUV, and was killed instantly. Jackson was eventually convicted of a felony for causing a fatal crash while driving with marijuana in her system.

So the widow, already receiving \$1.3 million in workers compensation, sued... the office park, claiming that untrimmed trees caused the accident, though a photo of the view showed no obstruction. Her lawyer even asked for punitive damages. A jury didn't buy it, voting 7-1 against the widow.

—JACLYN O'MALLEY

Reno (Nevada) Gazette-Journal
August 13, 2004

Well-spent on Goth

State grant awarded a Missouri police department's Youth Outreach Unit two years ago to battle Goth culture: \$273,000.

Amount the unit returned to the

state in April after no Goth-influenced youth could be found to aid: \$132,000.

Amount spent in the interim to set up the program: \$141,000.

—HARPER'S INDEX

Harper's Magazine
August 2004

Over-regulation

George Santayana warned that those who ignore the lessons of history are doomed to repeat it.

He could have been writing about the Massachusetts legislature.

In mid-July, Bay State legislators acting in joint session approved a universal health care bill that would extend to ridiculous and expensive extremes the failed health care policies of the past. To undo the damage wrought by two decades' worth of manipulation and over-regulation of the Massachusetts health insurance marketplace, 152 state elected officials voted for still more manipulation and over-regulation.

The July 14 vote was only one step in a constitutional amendment process in which the state's voters have the final say. Before the

amendment measure reaches them — in November 2006 at the earliest — it must be approved by the legislature that takes office in January. Time enough for concerned citizens to remind their elected officials of the state's sorry health policy history.

With so much evidence showing the damage done by the government's past interference with the state's health insurance market, does anyone really believe more interference is the answer? That calls to mind another old saw, this one attributed to Albert Einstein, that

the definition of insanity is "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."

By now, Massachusetts policy-makers should know better than to propose more state regulation as the solution to the state's health insurance woes. Rules and regulations already on the books have driven up prices and reduced consumer choices. More of the same kind of regulation will only produce more of the same results.

—CONRAD F. MEIER

Heartland Institute
August 26, 2004

TOM COX.

A SERIOUS CANDIDATE.

A SERIOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR VICTORY.

This is a winnable race.

Tom Cox is running against a self-titled "fiscal conservative" — who voted for the largest tax increase in Oregon's History — in a district that defeated that same tax 60 to 40. With a proven campaign team and tremendous volunteer support, Tom has the opportunity to do what no Libertarian in Oregon has: *Win at the state level!* Cox has already put in \$50,000 of his own money and raised contributions and pledges of tens of thousands more!

Tom Cox is serious about this race.

As a statewide candidate in 2002, Tom pulled 5% of the vote in a race decided by 1%. With *some of the best name recognition in Oregon's political arena*, Tom Cox can win for state representative and bring Libertarian principles to "The Left Coast!" A professional campaign team has been established for this race. Campaign Manager Richard Burke, also Executive Director of the LP of Oregon and former Gubernatorial candidate in 1998, has run fifteen winning Libertarian campaigns. His media consultant Ken Montone has worked on two winning campaigns for U.S. Senate.

Vulnerable opponent.

The incumbent against whom Tom is running barely won in her fiscally conservative district, touting "fiscal conservative values". With vote after vote, she showed her true colors by *voting for the largest tax increase in the state's history*. She is vulnerable and the field is open to someone with real answers.

Principled and Qualified.

Tom Cox is uniquely qualified to address the central issue of

this race — principle. His background and broad experience are simply unmatched by any other candidate. Tom has worked for IBM Global Services as a management consultant, and has *consulted on four continents over the past decade*. Simply put, *he is a critical thinker and often his "outside-the-box" strategies are copied and implemented by others.*

Bottom line

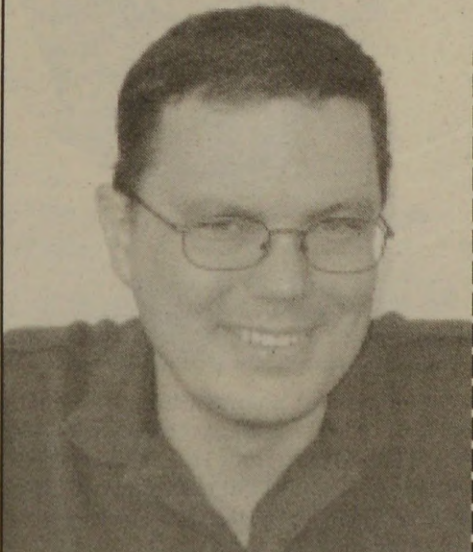
Tom is a leader. In his race for Governor, he was the only candidate to have a detailed budget, a *38-page plan for cutting taxes, cutting wasteful spending and fully funding vital services*. In his bid for State Representative this year, Tom has outlined his Five Elements of Agency Reform, based on proven strategies that have shrunk government — not just slowed its growth — and collected numerous endorsements from fiscally conservative groups and individuals.

Help us make history!

Tom Cox can win this election. But he must have your financial support. The Republicans and Democrats realize that Tom Cox is a very real threat to their power. They've already started to attack him and the Libertarian Party publicly. As the campaign progresses we expect the attacks to increase. They are losing their endorsements to the real player in this game, Tom Cox.

We need your help.

We're going to confront our Big Government opponents head to head. *Will you give us the tools that we need to fight back?* We must raise at least another \$300,000 for radio and television advertisements to make our message heard. *We're counting on your support.*



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AFFILIATE NEWS

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■ CALIFORNIA

Four political parties sharing office space

In a highly unusual move for political parties, the Libertarian, Republican, Green and Peace & Freedom parties have begun sharing an office in Monterey, Calif.

The office celebrated its grand opening on Aug. 21.

Mark Risley, the Republican candidate for Congress in the 17th District, invited all non-Democrat political parties (as well as a write-in candidate) to set up shop in this single office.

"This type of cooperation is missing from most current political campaigns," said Joel Smolen, the Libertarian Party's candidate for Congress from the same district. "We hope this gesture will show that we can all get along together for a common goal."

How can rival political parties come together for a common goal, when they are actually competing for the same seat in Congress?

"This was done in reply to the Democratic stranglehold in the area by Congressman Sam Farr," said Lawrence Samuels, Northern vice chair of the Libertarian Party of California.

Farr was first elected to his office in 1993 and has defeated all opposition since then.

Although the five candidates who will be represented in the office certainly have different views, they are tied together by one major factor: They all want Farr out of office.

"The idea is to show how the news media is basically shutting out all other candidates in this campaign because they think Congressman Farr has already won," Samuels said, noting that the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* has already picked up on the story and begun publicizing the "cooperative effort" campaign headquarters in Monterey.

"There has already been too much mud-slinging this campaign season," Smolen said. "We want to show that most political parties can discuss the issues calmly and intelligently."

■ CALIFORNIA

Rotarians find it hard to contradict Gray

California Superior Court Judge Jim Gray, a Libertarian who is running for U.S. Senate, addressed the Marina, Calif., Rotary Club recently, to a surprisingly positive response.

A longtime judge in Orange County, Gray very vocally opposes the War on Drugs.

His views on the Drug War, the war in Iraq and the Patriot Act, among other issues, figured heavily in his speech to the Rotarians — and a local newspaper reported the responses of several of those present.

"It's pretty hard to disagree with anything he said," said an insurance agent who said he doesn't intend to vote for either of Gray's major two opponents.

Gary Wilmot, a Republican who is running for city council in Marina, was quoted as saying that Gray has some worthwhile ideas, and he particularly liked Gray's emphasis on private enterprise rather than big government.

And while Wilmot couldn't agree with Gray that the War on Drugs should be ended, he did acknowledge that "we're throwing many people in jail and not accomplishing a lot."

This appearance before the Rotary Club illustrates one of Gray's primary selling points, said Bruce Cohen, a Gray campaign worker who is also a member of the California LP executive committee. "Even the people who are totally allergic to legalizing drugs have to acknowledge that he knows what he's talking about, and that the War isn't working."

■ INDIANA

Gividen to face opponents in debate

Indiana's Libertarian candidate for governor, Kenn Gividen, is

scheduled to face his two opponents — incumbent Democrat Joe Kernan and Republican Mitch Daniels — in at least one debate before Election Day.

The three candidates have agreed to participate in a 90-minute debate at Franklin College, just south of Indianapolis, on Sept. 28 at 6 p.m. The debate is being sponsored by public television station WFYI.

Both the Republican and the Democrat parties' representatives have said that they feel more debates should be forthcoming, but as of mid-September, only one event had been scheduled.

Gividen has gotten some media attention from an unexpected angle. In August, the news media reported that Kernan had admitted smoking marijuana, while Daniels's arrest for drug use (albeit many years ago) has been the focus of many news stories.

That makes Gividen the only candidate for governor in Indiana who has never tried pot, and the media reported as much — noting that it seems a bit strange that the Libertarian candidate is the only one that hadn't smoked marijuana.

Gividen said he found the emphasis on marijuana to be "silly,"

adding that there are other issues that deserve the attention.

"We have a state that is \$1 billion in the red," he said. "Why are these guys throwing mud at one another? We have more serious business to attend to, like attracting new jobs for Hoosiers."

■ MISSOURI

Rs and Ds back out of debate with LP

Two debates of the candidates for lieutenant governor of Missouri have been cancelled, after both the Republican and Democrat candidates backed out — leaving only Libertarian Mike Ferguson.

A League of Women Voters debate scheduled for Sept. 23 at Blue River Community College in Independence was called off when both state Sen. Peter Kinder, the Republican contender for the office, and former Missouri Secretary of State Bekki Cook — the Democrat — refused to participate in the event.

"We know Sen. Kinder is among the best at raising campaign contributions, especially from special interests who want to cash in on the corporate welfare spending he supports, but I would hope he could take a break from fund raising to actually address the issues that are important to Missouri," Ferguson said.

"I guess Mr. Kinder and Ms. Cook expect voters to decide who to vote for based on how many highway signs and newspaper ads they display, instead of where we (the candidates) stand on the issues and how we want the office of lieutenant governor to impact the lives of Missourians," he added.

Ferguson had also agreed to par-

ticipate in a second planned debate, which was scheduled for Oct. 18 at the Southeast Missouri State University campus, but that event has also been cancelled.

Ferguson noted that he remains willing to debate his two opponents anywhere in the state, at any time.

"The differences between my opponents and myself are distinct," he said.

"They both propose bigger, more expensive government, and I have specific proposals to improve Missouri's economy by reducing the regulatory and tax burden on small businesses and on Missouri's working families.

"Unfortunately, this is what we have come to expect from many Republican and Democratic candidates: Money being placed before people when it comes to campaign priorities. The people of Missouri simply deserve better."

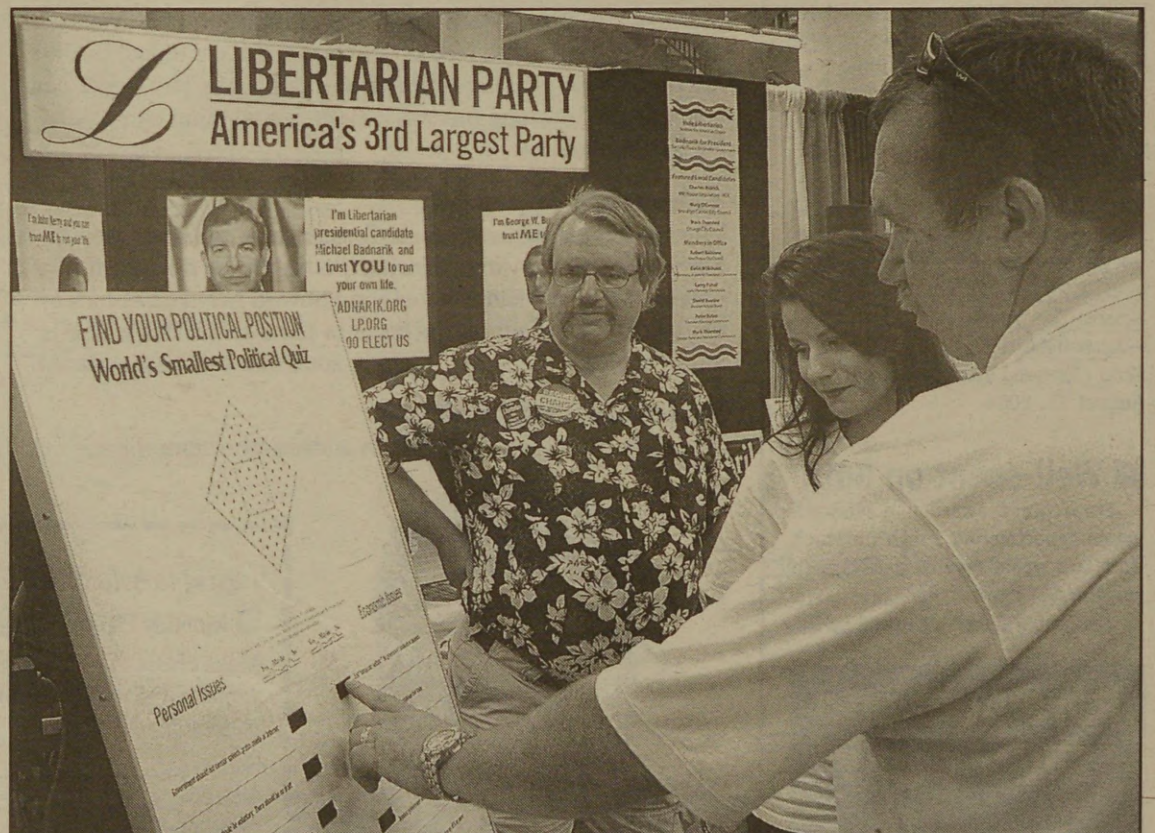
■ NORTH CAROLINA

Executive committee applauded for 'virtue'

North Carolina Libertarians were given a thumbs-up from an unexpected direction following their state executive committee meeting in Concord.

John Plecnik, a conservative columnist and a college Republican at Duke University, said in a recent column picked up by several newspapers and on-line journals that the LP strategic meeting was conducted with "an enviable level of professionalism," and that the party will be more influential in the 2004 elections than most people think.

"I found the committee's openness to be a paragon of political virtue," Plecnik said after observ-



■ Stephen Baker and Cisse Spragins help an unidentified man find his position on the Nolan Chart, via the World's Smallest Political Quiz, while working a booth at the Minnesota State Fair. During the fair, held Aug. 26-Sept. 6, members of the Libertarian Party of Minnesota gave the quiz to more than 1,000 people, signed up 30 new volunteers, handed out thousands of Libertarian Viewpoint tabloids, buttons and brochures, and had about 500 people sign the petition to get Michael Badnarik on the ballot in that state. (Photo by Corey Stern, Minnesota LP)

Online Resources for LP Members

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Visit: www.LP.org

Click on: Organization

Click on: State Parties

Click on: [Your state]

■ Find contact info for the National Committee

Visit: www.LP.org

Click on: Organization

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Click on: LNC Directory

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Visit: www.LP.org

See: Special Features (left side)

Click on: Renew

ing how the committee interacted with various Libertarian candidates for office, as well as with a Republican candidate for the state Supreme Court. "There were no backroom deals, no power players and no private alliances. Candidates made their case. Leaders debated the merits. Decisions were reached expediently.

"Both Republicans and Democrats stand to learn from such straightforward practices."

■ NORTH CAROLINA

Two UNC students running for office

Rusty Sheridan and Allison Jaynes, two Libertarian students at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, are seeking election to the North Carolina General Assembly.

Sheridan is a candidate for N.C. Senate in District 27, and Jaynes is seeking the N.C. House seat for District 59.

Jaynes, a junior physics major, is founder and president of the UNCG College Libertarians, an active political group on campus.

Sheridan is a graduate student studying film production and is also active with the College Libertarians.

Jaynes and Sheridan are focusing their campaigns on issues that are of interest to students, they said. Students are often labeled as apathetic because they don't vote as often as older citizens.

But Jaynes said the decision to vote is based on a lack of real choices, not on apathy.

"The students in my district are faced with two choices this November," she said. "They can vote for one of the 'Demopublican' candidates and watch freedom become a notion of the past. Or they can vote Libertarian and voice their dissent."

■ OHIO

LP now known by new name: 'The Other Party'

Last year, Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell decided on a technicality to throw out more than 57,000 signatures the LP had gathered to ensure ballot access.

And in September, Ohio Libertarians lost a court case that would have returned their right to be recognized as a political party.

However, the Libertarian Party's presidential candidate, Michael Badnarik, will still appear on the Ohio ballot.

The Ohio LP collected more than 6,000 petition signatures to get Badnarik on the ballot as an independent; Badnarik will be listed as an "Other Party" candidate.

"This designation as 'the other party' is pure political theater, but we're willing to play along," noted Ohio LP Executive Director Robert Butler.

"We have 12 Libertarian public officials in Ohio," Butler added. "We have signatures from 88 counties. We collected more than 57,000 signatures last year. But the secretary

of state still refuses to acknowledge that we exist as a political party."

"We're happy to have our Presidential candidate on the ballot," state LP Chair Jason Hallmark said, "but we'd be even happier if he were listed as a Libertarian."

■ OKLAHOMA

Past state chair in a 'most winnable' race

Richard Prawdzienski, past chair of the Oklahoma LP and a candidate for Oklahoma's House of Representatives District 39 seat, may be in one of the most winnable state races in the nation for Libertarians, campaign representatives say.

"District 39 is a house divided," said Clark Duffe, chair of the Prawdzienski campaign. "The Republican primary was uncommonly ugly, and it caused an almost exact split among the GOP rank-and-file. And there's no Democrat in the race."

A runoff in the Republican primary — in which each of the candidates got about 46 percent of the vote — was averted only when the incumbent, Wayne Pettigrew, withdrew from the race, calling it the most unpleasant experience he'd ever faced in his decade of political activity.

That left newcomer Marian Cooksey as the Republican nominee, and "our informal polling shows that many Republican voters are still upset about Ms. Cooksey's tactics to the point of even voting outside the party if they see a viable candidate," Duffe said. "In Richard Prawdzienski, we have that candidate."

A Vietnam-era decorated Marine veteran, Prawdzienski is a known political entity in the district. He ran against Pettigrew in 2002 — a campaign Pettigrew himself publicly complemented as being clean and above board, and which brought out the largest percentage of voters in any district in the state.

Prawdzienski is a member of numerous civic organizations including the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees and the Nature Conservancy, and has close ties with many neighborhood and local groups.

■ VIRGINIA

State LP celebrates end of assault weapons ban

The weapons banned under the Assault Weapons Act — which expired on Sept. 13 — should be renamed, members of the Libertarian Party of Virginia executive committee decided Sept. 11. From now on, they should be called "Homeland Defense Rifles."

The committee passed a resolution at its quarterly meeting naming Tuesday, Sept. 14 "Fight Terrorism — Buy a Homeland Defense Rifle Day."

It was the first day that rifles covered by the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act of 1994 could again be purchased.

"The Libertarian Party of Virginia recognizes that defense of life, liberty and property is an essential right," the proclamation said.

And because the ban expired 10 years after it was approved, "every patriotic American should celebrate the end of this unconstitutional and un-American law [which] functioned only as an excuse to harass and imprison otherwise law-abiding citizens," said state Vice Chairman Leonard Harris, who sponsored the resolution.

The guns banned under the 1994 law were just those "that looked evil," Harris said.

Rifles were banned if they had detachable magazines and two or more of the following features: a folding or telescopic stock, a pistol grip, a bayonet mount, a flash suppressor or threaded barrel, or a grenade launcher, he added.

"None of these features increased the 'dangerousness' of the rifle," Harris noted.

The 10-year ban served to demonize specific characteristics of weapons — but the ban was merely



■ Libertarian Party vice presidential candidate Richard Campagna, at left, talks with J.D. and Gretel von Pischke of Reston, Va., during an Aug. 15 campaign fundraiser in northern Virginia. The dinner event, which drew approximately 30 supporters, raised close to \$4,000 for the Libertarian campaign. (Photo by LP Communications Director George Getz)

a needless infringement of Americans' rights, Harris said.

"After 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 13, Americans will finally have this ridiculous infringement of their

rights removed. Sometimes, the best way to preserve your rights is to exercise them. I encourage everyone to go out immediately and buy a Homeland Defense Rifle."

Picture yourself...in LP News!

Did you know that a majority of the photographs included in this newspaper are submitted by our readers? Despite this wonderful help, we frequently find ourselves scratching our heads because we often cannot use the photos submitted.

We need your help! We want to vary our content, and put the best face on the LP, our members and Libertarian activities!

Help us picture you! To stand a good chance of getting your photos in LP News — where they'll be seen by Libertarians nationwide — follow a few simple guidelines.

✓ **HI-RES:** If you send a photo via e-mail, make sure it is a high-resolution image — meaning at least 300 dpi. We cannot use images found on a website.

✓ **SEND THE ORIGINAL:** When sending a digital photo, please send the original image. Do not edit it. That way, we can crop, adjust color, or otherwise modify the image for the specific spot where we need it.

✓ **CLOSE-UP AND PERSONAL:** When taking pictures of speakers or other events, always remember: Closer is better. Don't be afraid to stand in front of the crowd for a minute or two and get a good picture.

✓ **ACTION SHOTS:** Even if it's only one person, get photos of that person doing something — even laughing. If you've got a group, show them interacting, working on a project, talking to each other — anything other than lining them up and having them smile for the camera or sitting around a half-cleared dining table looking at each other over the scattered remains of a dinner meeting.

✓ **Focus:** If you have an activity with 10 or 15 people, don't try to work all of them into the photo unless it's absolutely necessary. Focus on people doing things and on the people who are important to the story you're trying to tell.

✓ **SEND IN A VARIETY:** If you take 12 photos and don't know which one is appropriate, feel free to send them all.

✓ **SEND IN AS MANY AS YOU CAN:** We can always use pictures!

Questions? Contact Daniel Cloud at (202) 333-0008, ext. 226, or by e-mail at editor@hq.lp.org.

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THE REVIEW

Anti-Drug War all-stars

■ *The New Prohibition: Voices of Dissent Challenge the Drug War*, edited by Sheriff Bill Masters. 224 pages. Published by Accurate Press. Softbound, \$14.95. Available by calling (800) 374-4049.

Reviewed by Bill Winter

In years past, the ultimate trump card against ending the War on Drugs was the "Cheech and Chong Argument." Whenever a celebrity would speak out in favor of, say, legalizing marijuana, critics would respond: "Well, of course Cheech and Chong" — or Willie Nelson, Woody Harrelson, or whoever — "want to legalize it! They want to smoke the stuff!" The argument was sophomoric and intellectually dishonest, but it worked.

No longer. *The New Prohibition*, edited by Colorado's Libertarian sheriff, Bill Masters, features the greatest all-star line-up of anti-Drug War essayists ever to appear in one book. Let's see a drug-war zealot try to use the Cheech and Chong argument against a U.S. Congressman (Ron Paul), a former mayor (Kurt Schmoke), a former governor (Jesse Ventura), a former police chief (Joseph McNamara) and a U.S. District judge (John L. Kane). It won't work.

The New Prohibition's star power is only one of its virtues. It is also full of compelling insights from people who have seen first-hand the failure of the War on Drugs. When a police chief, a mayor or a judge talks about the ruined lives, corruption and violent crime caused by drug prohibition, people are forced to sit up and take notice.

In addition to the "big-name" writers, *The New Prohibition* contains essays from 14 anti-Drug War activists, think tankers and scholars. Almost all are interesting and insightful.

For example, the Independence Institute's Mike Krauss and Dave Kopel paint a damning picture of how the United States' War on Drugs has devastated South American nations by funding communist rebels,

destroying farmers' livelihoods, spawning corruption and destabilizing governments. It's the best short history of U.S. anti-narcotic efforts in South America I've ever read.

Jeffrey A. Singer, former spokesperson for Arizonans for Drug Policy Reform (ADPR), contributes a fascinating look at how that group drafted and successfully passed 1996's Proposition 200, which reformed Arizona drug laws. Most interestingly, he reveals that ADPR conducted focus groups from which they learned that citizens thought the War on Drugs was a failure — but that they also strongly opposed decriminalization. How the ADPR dealt with this paradox is required reading for any Libertarian who genuinely wants to influence public policy.

I'd be remiss not to mention "My Arrest for Civil Disobedience" by the former Libertarian Party political director Ron Crickenberger. The essay, about a 2002 medical marijuana protest, is funny, principled and wise. In short, it's all the things that make so many Libertarians (myself included) miss Ron, who died of cancer in early 2004.

What's not to like about the book? Well, Libertarians may be irritated at the policies some writers propose to replace the War on Drugs. Resist that urge.

Yes, former New Jersey police detective Jack Cole wants the federal government to produce and distribute drugs, to eliminate the black market's inflated narcotics prices. (Despite the fact that they invented the \$800 toilet seat, he thinks the feds would keep prices down. Interesting theory.) And Kurt Schmoke wants to shift government money to "effective treatment programs."

Even if some proposals fall well short of the complete legalization many Libertarians favor, they mark a potential turning point in the Drug War debate. After all, when the argument shifts from "if" to "how," then we've won. The War on Drugs will be effectively over. All that remains will be hammering out the terms of the Drug Peace.

The bottom line: *The New Prohibition* is an invaluable contribution to the growing library of anti-Drug War literature. It assembles what may be the most respected spokespeople, important perspectives and compelling arguments of any book in the field. For the credibility of the anti-prohibition movement, it represents a new high-water mark.

Cheech, Chong, Willie Nelson and Woody Harrelson, thank you for what you've done. Now please step aside. The torch has been passed.

■ **About the reviewer:** Bill Winter is the communications director for the *Advocates for Self-Government*. From 1997 until earlier this year, he was editor of LP News.

Voters in California county faced with \$885 million in school bonds

On Nov. 2, voters in Santa Clara County, Calif., will approve or deny an \$885 million in general obligation bonds to pay for school renovation, expansion and other projects. And once again, Libertarians in the county are standing up for the taxpayers' rights.

"We have 14 measures that propose tax increases on the Nov. 2 ballot here in Santa Clara County," said Dennis Umphress, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County's ballot measures and initiatives committee.

"Six measures are for schools seeking to sell bonds," Umphress said. "These six require only 55 percent voter approval to pass."

The Libertarian Party submitted arguments against five of these measures, which ask voters to approve \$885 million in bonds to be paid back over a period of up to 30 years.

"We didn't submit an argument on the other one because it is for a college district that covers several counties, with only a small percent-

age of the district in our county," Umphress explained. That measure asks voters to approve another \$326 million in bonds for community colleges in the region.

There are also seven measures calling for increased property taxes (parcel taxes) for various school districts in the county and one for San Jose's library system. Each of the requested school property tax increases would levy between \$50 and \$228 per parcel per year.

The Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association — which Umphress helps lead — is also a signatory on the anti-tax arguments.

"We are the ones who are orchestrating this, and the taxpayers association is very much a part of the group," said Mark Hinkle, who is a member of the state LP executive committee and a Region 2 alternate representative on the Libertarian National Committee.

"There's a myth out here that funding for schools has decreased, but I could show you in the budget that the dollar amount to be spent per pupil has actually increased," Hinkle said.

At one time, the LP submitted a single blanket argument against all proposed tax increases; they now issue "much more customized arguments with more detail about the specific bonds, instead of the generic anti-tax arguments," he noted.

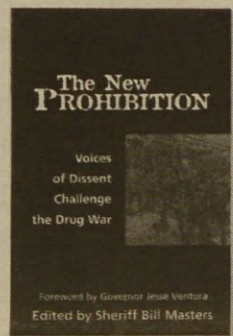
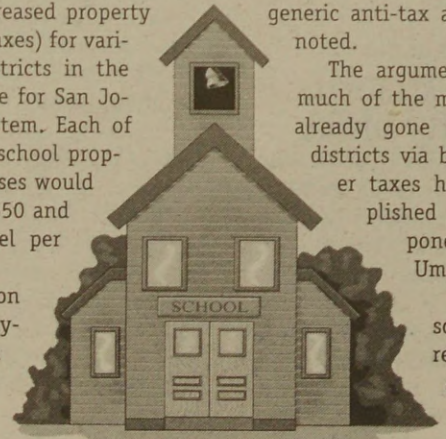
The arguments show that much of the money that has already gone to the school districts via bonds and other taxes has not accomplished what tax proponents promised, Umphress said.

Despite school districts returning time and again to ask for more money to fund projects

that earlier bonds were supposed to pay for, people tend to vote in favor of ever-increased funding for schools, he added.

"Historical data shows that whenever schools ask for money, they leave the gate with about 58 percent approval, and if they do any campaigning at all, they'll get approval at least in the low- to mid-60s," he said.

California voters are frequently hit with substantial tax increases, but "this is the worst I've seen," Umphress added.



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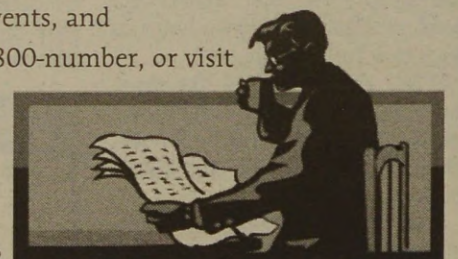
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THE ISSUES

'Realign' our troops back home, Mr. Bush

President Bush's plan for a massive realignment of U.S. troops is half right, says Libertarian presidential candidate Michael Badnarik: All U.S. forces should be re-deployed — right back home.

"Bush wants to remove U.S. troops from places where they don't belong, then put them in other places where they don't belong," says Badnarik. "It's time to bring all of our men and women home to the United States and start using them for defensive purposes only."

In a recent speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Cincinnati, Bush announced that in order to make the military more agile in the war on terrorism, approximately 70,000 U.S. troops would be shifted from Cold War-era bases in Europe and Asia. Some would be stationed in the United States, while others would be sent to the Middle East, the former Soviet republics and South Asia.

But moving more U.S. troops into the Middle East and volatile central Asian nations may provoke more terrorism than it prevents, Libertarians say.

"The U.S. military presence in the Middle East has been used as a justification for several terrorist attacks, including the Sept. 11 tragedy," Badnarik said.

"How long can politicians pretend to be surprised when terrorist threats turn into bloody reality? How many more innocent Americans have to lose their lives before U.S. policy makers come to their senses and stop interfering in other nations' affairs?"

GOP should pay its convention costs

If George Bush is really a compassionate conservative, he should prove it by reimbursing taxpayers for the \$40 million cost of the New York convention, the Libertarian Party says.

"Shame on President Bush for forcing ordinary Americans to pay for this weeklong infomercial masquerading as a political convention," said Michael Dixon, national chair of the Libertarian Party. "We're challenging the Bush-Cheney ticket to get off the welfare wagon, and give the money back."

The organizers of the Republican National Convention received a \$14.5 million check earlier this year from the Federal Election Commission to finance the New York event. The convention also cost an estimated \$25 million in additional security costs.

The Libertarian convention, held over Memorial Day weekend in Atlanta, was financed entirely with private funds.

"The Republicans and Democrats have every right to hold these non-conventions for which the nominees are chosen in advance, but they don't have the right to send taxpayers the bill," said Dixon, adding that the Libertarians asked the Democratic Party in July to refund the subsidy from its Boston convention.

Dixon cited a July 25 Rasmussen poll indicating that a majority of Americans oppose taxpayer-financed conventions.

The survey of 1,000 adults, commissioned by the Michael Badnarik for President campaign, asked: "Should tax money be spent to stage the Democrat and Republican national presidential nominating conventions?" A majority of 62 percent said no, 24 percent said yes, and 14 percent weren't sure.

"It's both outrageous and arrogant for these rich politicians to demand that ordinary Americans pay for a convention whose only purpose is to get the Republican president re-elected," Dixon said.

Honor 9/11 by tracking down bin Laden

The best way for President Bush to commemorate the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks is to pull out of Iraq and use those troops to track down Osama bin Laden instead, Libertarians say.

"Who would you rather see sitting in a U.S. prison cell right now: Saddam Hussein or Osama bin Laden?" asked Michael Badnarik, Libertarian presidential candidate. "If the president had made an all-out effort to capture the man who had just murdered thousands of innocent Americans, instead of a man who had no connection to that attack, the United States might be a much safer place right now."

On the grisly anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, Badnarik said Americans have a right to ask their commander-in-chief — who has made the war on terrorism the centerpiece of his re-election campaign — why the perpetrators remain at large.

One reason, Badnarik says, may be the war in Iraq — which was a dangerous diversion of military resources.

"Had Bush ... launched an all-out effort to find bin Laden, they might have succeeded in capturing the mastermind of the attacks that killed 3,000 innocent Americans," he said. "Instead, Bush sent U.S. troops into Iraq — an action that has resulted in the death of 1,000 more Americans."

'Lights of Liberty' deadline looms

Want to help promote the libertarian movement — and qualify to win valuable prizes while doing so?

Anyone who writes libertarian letters to the editor, gives libertarian speeches, or works at libertarian outreach events by Dec. 31, 2004, may qualify for the "Lights of Liberty" awards sponsored by the Advocates for Self-Government, said Advocates President Sharon Harris.

"If you helped publicize libertarian ideas in a positive way, we want to reward you," she said.

The "Lights of Liberty" program honors any individual who:

- Gets three letters using the words "libertarian" or "libertarianism" printed in a non-libertarian newspaper, magazine, or other publication.

- Works at an "Operation Politically Homeless" (OPH) booth on three different days, for two hours or more per day.

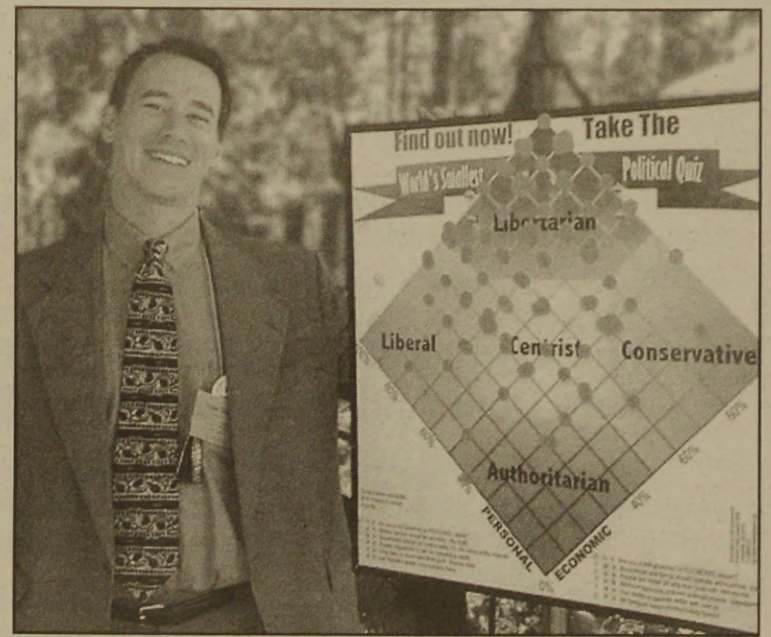
- Gives three speeches to predominantly non-libertarian groups such as service clubs, classrooms, political rallies, or Toastmasters, using the words "libertarian" or "libertarianism."

Because 2004 is a presidential election year, the program is especially important now, Harris said.

"With the spotlight on the presidential race, people are paying more attention to politics, so the power of your message is amplified," she said. "Plus, in an election year, your outreach can do double duty. You can not only promote libertarian ideas, but also candidates running on a libertarian platform."

Libertarians around the country said the "Lights of Liberty" program had inspired them to engage in more outreach activities.

"I know the program was a good motivator for me personally," said John R. Pack of Sandy, Utah, a two-time winner. "I think it inspires us to get the word out and to do it in



■ Steve Gallant, a Libertarian candidate for office in Colorado and publications director for the state LP, poses with the World's Smallest Political Quiz used in an "Operation Politically Homeless" booth at a recent town fair. Helping with such booths is one way to qualify for the "Lights of Liberty" award. (Photo by Rand Fanshier)

effective ways."

Gene Donahue of New Hampshire, a "Lights of Liberty" winner and past elected member of the Marlborough Budget Committee, said, "I think the incentive for the award [serves] as an important tool for advancing the cause of liberty."

Scott Kjar, past Nevada LP state chair and 2003 Lights of Liberty winner, said the program was a good way to motivate libertarians to do more by setting "simple, achievable, and effective quantitative goals. The 'Lights of Liberty' awards are a great idea."

To qualify, outreach activities must be performed between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2004. Winners will receive from the Advocates:

- A "Lights of Liberty" award certificate, suitable for framing.

- Their name on the 2004 "Lights of Liberty" Honor Page at the Advo-

cates Web site.

- Their name listed in an Advocates' ad in LP News.

- A 20 percent discount coupon off any order from the Advocates' catalog of libertarian outreach and educational products.

- Their name entered in a drawing for the "Libertarian Library" — autographed copies of every book written by LP presidential candidates since John Hospers in 1972.

Any activist who accomplishes all three outreach activities will win special recognition as a "Libertarian Triathlete."

"This is how liberty grows — by spreading the word via letters, speeches and one-on-one outreach events," Harris said. "Imagine the effect if every Libertarian set out to accomplish these highly effective goals every year!"

Over the past five years, there have been "Lights of Liberty" winners in 46 states (plus DC) and five foreign countries (Italy, Australia, Canada, Seychelles and Great Britain).

The program has earned praise from Libertarian leaders, including two-time LP presidential candidate Harry Browne.

"I especially like the attempt to motivate people to use the word 'libertarian' in letters to editors," he said. "I feel strongly we must build name recognition for the words 'libertarian' and 'libertarianism' — by attaching the words publicly to specific proposals, analyses and ideas. [The] award incentive is an excellent way to further that goal."

To qualify for the "Lights of Liberty" awards, individuals can submit their name or the names of other activists who engaged in the qualifying outreach activities.

For more information about the program, visit www.TheAdvocates.org/lights.html; or e-mail, Lights@TheAdvocates.org; or call, (800) 932-1776.

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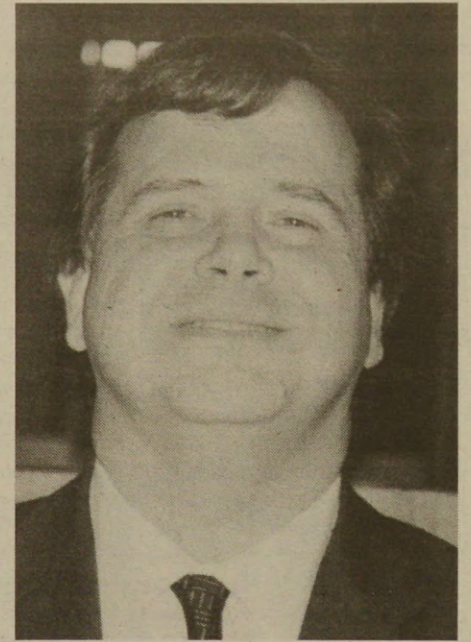
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Let's Try FREEDOM!

Hello. I'm Bob Johnson. After graduating from Princeton with honors in economics, I received an MA in economics from the University of Chicago. While I taught economics for a while, I've been a computer consultant in the private sector most of my adult life. I have custody of my two teens. Both are in college and both think we should try freedom in this country.



HOW IT'S POSSIBLE to defeat Jim Davis:

I know it is possible to defeat incumbent Jim Davis this year and become one of the first Libertarians elected to Congress. I was already getting free publicity the first week I was on the ballot! The *St. Petersburg Times* interviewed me in May, and in July I was on WB38, talking about Congressional pensions. The *Tampa Tribune* also interviewed me that week, though the interview hasn't been published yet.

In 1996 when my opponent first ran for Congress, there were real primaries for the Democrats and Republicans. My opponent ended up with over 57%, the Republican winner with barely 42%. In 1998 there were no primaries, and it was a 65/35 split. In 2000 a Libertarian ran but no Republican ran, and the Libertarian got 15%. My opponent was unopposed in 2002. This year, I am running against my opponent with no Republican in the race. Thus, using Chicago School econometric regressions, I will get a negative vote total this year! In all seriousness, there are some new factors that can enable me to win.

As we know, the Iraq war is quite unpopular, increasingly even with Republicans, and not just George Will/Pat Buchanan types. We all pay for gas and taxes. The so-called PATRIOT Act is also unpopular. Meanwhile, medical marijuana is becoming a more popular idea.

After redistricting made my Democrat opponent's district even more Democrat-oriented (it now includes not only Tampa, but also S.E. St. Petersburg across the bay, and parts of Manatee County — gerrymandering works wonders!), he nevertheless started voting like a Republican on the issues I mentioned. He also voted against allowing the Pledge of Allegiance in schools, and of course has a really lousy record on the economic issues and even most of the hot-button social issues (tax money for abortions) that motivate Republicans, but in which Libertarians share interest.

His lifetime American Conservative Union rating is 19%. Thus, all I need to do is get about a third of the votes that are usually the 'anybody but Davis' Republican crowd to vote Libertarian, and get about a fourth of the Democrats to vote Libertarian. Because of the redistricting, I think it's possible that my opponent has hoisted himself by his own petard.

I'd encourage all of you to look at my web site, www.BobJohnson4Congress.org because you'll not only learn a lot, but you'll find it at least mildly entertaining. I'd like those of you who believe in God to pray for me to win. I'd also like those of you who KNOW people in my district to tell them how great I am!

If you can afford it, or know folks who can afford it, I could also use some money. There's a \$2,000 limit per person. So far, it's all been out of my pocket, and it will get more expensive as I put up more newspaper ads, hand out leaflets, billboards, have my ads on the sides of buses, do mailings, have radio ads and maybe TV ads.

YES, I INTEND TO WIN. I am working full time now to defeat my opponent since his voting record makes him almost an 'anti-matter' Libertarian. We have never had a better chance to do well as a field of candidates. As Dave Nolan pointed out at our convention in Atlanta, this may even be a revolutionary year in U.S. history. Some similar theoreticians believe in an 80-year cycle, similar to the 72-year cycle, which goes back to the War of the Roses!

If there is a year to come out of the trenches, over the top, this is it. Apartheid and USSR are now historical terms. Why can't we believe that this year will mark the year we replaced the Republican Party?

**See BobJohnson4Congress.org and call (813) 951-2604
to get involved in the next two months!**

POLITICS 2004

Penn and paperless voting machines

■ Speaking at a forum sponsored by the Arab American Institute and the American Conservative Union, former U.S. Rep. **Bob Barr** of Georgia, a conservative Republican, said early in September that the Patriot Act is "the most important issue on which I will be basing my vote in this election." His concern about the Act may lead him to vote against President Bush; he doesn't care for the Bush administration's refusal to consider limiting or revising the Patriot Act.



■ Penn Jillette

■ **Penn Jillette**, the taller half of magic duo Penn and Teller, was present at a Michael Badnarik for President campaign event in Las Vegas on Sept. 6. A self-proclaimed, Jillette supports Badnarik — according to an Associated Press story about the event, which also lamented the fact that Badnarik doesn't have as much name recognition as Penn and Teller.

■ **Thurston County** (Washington) Superior Court Judge **Richard Hicks** ruled in September that the state's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. "Washington grants to its citizens, in its libertarian tradition, greater individual rights than the federal government grants. Our sovereign state must respect these rights and treat each citizen in an even-handed manner," Hicks said.

■ "The time has come to reevaluate and reform America's drug laws," *The Denver Post* said in a Sept. 5 editorial, pointing to "an impressive new book, *The New Prohibition*," as inspiring thoughtful criticism of the Drug War. [See a review of the book on page 10.] "The wide-ranging authors of *The New Prohibition* have performed a signal service by highlighting the current drug war as a microcosm of the inevitable failures of a federal nanny-state mentality," the editorial concludes.

■ A New York City school teacher is on a hunger strike for 30 days to protest **paperless voting machines**. He has promised to stay on his fast until "emergency measures" are passed ensuring that paper ballots are counted, or until Nov. 2.

■ 56-year-old rock star **Alice Cooper**, a long-time Republican, recently said he is disgusted by musicians who mix politics with rock music. "If you're listening to a rock star in order to get your information on who to vote for, you're a bigger moron than they are. I call it treason against rock-n-roll, because rock is the antithesis of politics. Rock should never be in bed with politics."



■ Alice Cooper

■ Members of the Marion County (Ind.) LP sent campaign materials to the **Indianapolis Public Library**, and received a thank-you letter from Ellen Flexman of the library staff: "The materials have contributed to a display that we hope will encourage people to vote this November. Thank you again, and good luck this election season."

■ **Stephanie Kennedy Sailor**, a Libertarian candidate for Congress in Illinois (2nd District), has publicly decided to decline any campaign contributions, redirecting such donations to "The Jessica Fund." The fund, which Sailor created, is named for the daughter of Sailor's opponent, Jesse Jackson, Jr. Like many politicians, Jackson lauds public schools for other people's children, but sends his daughter to a private school, Sailor said. "He knows that one-size-fits-all government-run schooling has failed," and "The Jessica Fund" will help provide scholarships so other kids can go to a private school of their choice — just like Jackson's daughter, she added.

■ For about one more month, California Libertarian **Richard Rider** will be hosting a Web-based "radio" show. The show, "The Libertarian Alternative," has been heard live each Tuesday since Aug. 3 from 8 to 9 p.m. Pacific time, at www.WSRadio.com. The broadcasts are also archived, allowing previous shows to be heard via the Internet. "The show is an unabashed advertisement for the LP," Rider said.

■ **Jason Miller**, a field representative for the Washington, D.C.-based Leadership Institute's Campus Leadership Program, recently contacted the Colorado LP, looking for libertarian college students in that state who are interested in campus activism. "To help foster student leadership, we can provide funding for campus groups, training, scholarships, jobs and internships for students," Miller wrote.

Libertarians take a stand against new \$1.78 billion road in Indiana



■ Indiana's Libertarian candidate for governor, Kenn Gividen, speaks to activists with the Indiana LP and Count Us! during a rally on the steps of the courthouse in Terre Haute, Ind. Members of the two groups held a 200-plus-mile caravan Sept. 5 to oppose the state's plans to spend \$1.78 billion on an extension of Interstate 69. (Photo by Phil Miller)

Indiana's Libertarian candidate for governor, Kenn Gividen, made a splash Sept. 5 in central Indiana by leading a caravan of more than 30 decorated vehicles through the state to protest the planned expansion of Interstate 69.

The caravan of 50-plus individuals left Indianapolis in the morning, stopped at Bloomington and Terra Haute, then returned to Indianapolis for a picnic dinner.

Most in the "Gividen for Governor" caravan were Libertarians, but some were members of Count Us!, a political action committee that shares the Libertarian Party's opposition to the wasteful, environmentally harmful, special-interest-laden public works project, a representative of the Indiana LP said.

Proponents of the interstate highway want to extend it from Indianapolis to Evansville as part of the "NAFTA Superhighway" that will eventually connect the Canadian and Mexican borders, said a local TV news broadcast. Both Democrat Gov. Joe Kernan and Republican gubernatorial candidate Mitch Daniels support the interstate's expansion.

The highway extension — for which plans were announced last year — would take eight to 14 years to complete and would cost

approximately \$1.78 billion, according to the state Department of Transportation.

Rather than creating a "new-terrain" highway through Indiana, along with all of the environmental devastation and waste that would go with such new construction, Gividen has said he would prefer to spend some of that money to improve existing roads instead.

**DESPITE CLAIMS
that the money for
the new I-69 is
federal money, it's
actually money that
Hoosiers pay
at the gas pump.**

—KEN GIVIDEN

"Despite claims that the money for the new I-69 is federal money, it's actually money that Hoosiers pay at the gas pump — money that would be diverted from other highway projects around the state," he said.

Rather than wasting \$1 billion on a new-terrain interstate highway, Indiana could instead renovate U.S. Highway 31, giving the state a border-to-border freeway "that would benefit Hoosiers from Evansville to South Bend," Gividen said.

One of Gividen's opponents — Republican Mitch Daniels — has suggested that Indiana could fi-

nance the upgrade of Highway 31 by turning it into a toll road.

Besides the environmental impact and the wasted funds, extending I-69 through southern Indiana would divert traffic away from some of the most poverty-stricken counties in the state, potentially causing even worse conditions in those areas, Gividen said in a recent press release.

The caravan was "a very good opening event for the Gividen for Governor fall campaign season, said Mark Rutherford, chairman of the LP of Indiana.

"Labor Day is the traditional opening of the election season in Indiana," Rutherford noted.

The event "turned thousands of heads, generated hundreds of supportive honks and showed the environmental colors of the Libertarian Party," says an article in the Marion County (Ind.) LP newsletter.

Several newspapers and other news outlets — including the *Bloomington Herald-Tribune*, the *Evansville Courier & Press*, and Fort Wayne TV station WANE — have covered Gividen's libertarian opposition to the proposed project, and others who oppose it are seeing Gividen as the sole gubernatorial candidate willing to take a stand against the interstate extension.

"This was a very good day for the LP of Indiana," Rutherford said.

In addition to Republican Daniels, Gividen faces incumbent Kernan in the November election. Elaine Badnarik, the mother of LP presidential candidate Michael Badnarik, was selected by the Indiana LP as the state's lieutenant governor candidate.

CORRECTIONS

■ A photograph of North Carolina LP candidate Sean Haugh on page 8 of the September 2004 *LP News* should have been attributed to Neal Anders.

TN tax fighter running for Signal Mountain city council

The last time Joe Dumas ran for city council in Signal Mountain, Tenn., he got 16 percent in a six-way race. That was two years ago. Now he's running again for a city council seat in the town of 8,000 and stands a real chance of winning the nonpartisan election.

Over the past few years, Dumas has made a name for himself as a steadfast tax fighter in this mountaintop town near Chattanooga. He said one of the main reasons he is running again is a 43 percent property tax hike the council enacted in 2001.

"I recognize that tax increases hurt working families and senior citizens," Dumas says on his Web site, www.JoeDumas.com, where he details some of his community involvement over recent years. "I will work hard and keep a sharp eye on the town's budget. I believe with better management of the town budget this tax increase could have been avoided. If I am elected, I will work to balance the budget by spending more wisely, not ... by increasing taxes."

Actually, Dumas has already started keeping a sharp eye on the budget, as well as most other aspects of the town's government; he's been to more than 40 of the city council's meetings in the past four years — more than any other candidate and even more than some of the sitting council members.

And he was the only citizen (other than council members) who attended the town's budget hearings both this spring and last year, so he has a good handle on Signal Mountain's finances.

"I feel that thanks to my previous run and my stand for taxpayers, I have better visibility and name recognition than the other three challengers," Dumas said. "It's not quite the same as being an incumbent, but it should help."

There are three available seats this year for which five people are running — and only one of them is an incumbent.

"Last time, I was 'outed' as a Libertarian, and attacked by three of the other candidates and their supporters based on my party affiliation," Dumas said. "Flyers were circulated implying that I would legalize drugs and prostitution and conduct gay marriages in the town hall; rumors were spread that I would abolish the police and fire departments."

"Hopefully this time we will avoid negative campaigning, rumors and smear attacks and be able to focus on issues affecting the town and the qualifications of the candidates. Actually, considering the abuse that was heaped on me, I was amazed I came as close to winning as I did."

Dumas first ran for city council in Signal Mountain in 2000, but he says that at that time he was "little more than a paper candidate, finishing a distant sixth out of seven candidates."

He significantly improved his vote totals in the subsequent (2002) race, when he finished fifth out of six candi-



■ Joe Dumas

dates. He received 16 percent of the vote compared to fourth place's 17 percent and third place's winning 19 percent.

"You can only be 'outed' once. I am optimistic that this time voters will pay more attention to who is best for the job and less attention to party labels, which have no place in a non-partisan race anyway. I am up to speed on how the town is run

and what the major issues are."

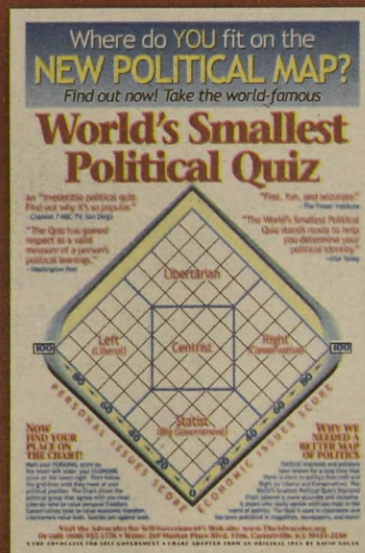
If he is elected, Dumas says on his Web site, he plans to examine the management of services such as garbage collection, water and sewage to see if outsourcing those services would increase efficiency and save taxpayer dollars.

But he is not willing to contract out the police and fire services, and he has no intention of eliminating

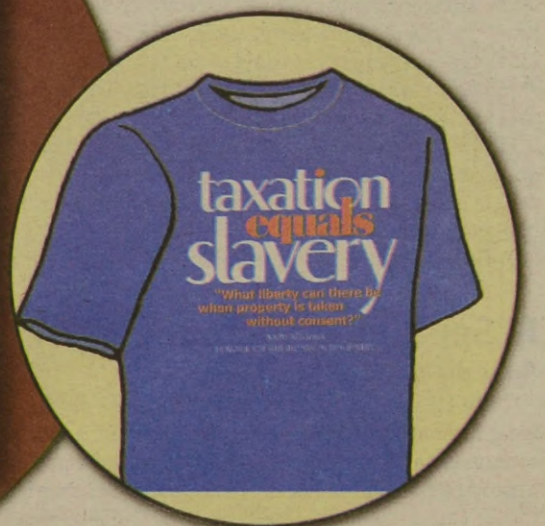
those functions of government, the site points out — a direct response to the accusations he had to face the last time he ran for office.

When he's not fighting taxes and otherwise keeping an eye on the government of Signal Mountain, Dumas teaches at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where he also serves as the faculty advisor for the campus Libertarian Party.

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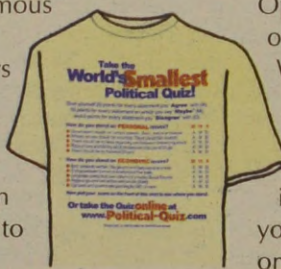


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LOOKING BACK

Our cyclical history...

"The more things change, the more they stay the same." Yes, it's a cliché, a hackneyed phrase. But phrases become cliché because of frequent use, and often they are used so often because they are true. Becoming a cliché doesn't lessen the truth; it merely lessens the impact of the phrase.

While sorting through paperwork recently in the LP's national headquarters, I discovered that there is an almost-complete collection of *LP News* issues, dating back to the January 1972 edition — which is a six-page newsletter headlined "Libertarian Party" is name choice; Convention to meet in Denver, June 4-7." The first issue is, sadly, missing.

As I flipped through dozens of old newsletters and, later, *LP News* papers, I discovered that many of the issues currently of interest in the party aren't exactly news. Or, to use a non-journalistic phrase, SSDD — Same Stuff, Different Day.

Issues fluctuate and problems recur, but there's a lot we could learn from looking back at old issues of *LP News*. For many of us newer members of the party, those of us who don't have the entire LP history memorized, it could serve as a wake-up call.

So that's what I plan to do. This is the first in what is intended to be a recurring column, which will include notes of interest or quotes from the pages of *LP News*. Most commonly, I'll look back 10, 20 and 30 years, with a two-fold intent: It can serve both as a history lesson, and as a measuring stick for how far we have — or haven't — in 30-odd years of existence.

—J. Daniel Cloud, *LP News* editor

September-October 1974

FROM THE CHAIR, BY ED CRANE

"The Libertarian Party is barely two years old, and already our ideas have attracted the serious attention of media commentators, congressmen, business leaders and the general public. Never in the history of this nation has a political movement with broad geographical support gained the respect or made the intellectual impact that the Libertarian Party has in so short a period of time.

"To be sure, there is a great sense of accomplishment in what we have done, and the vast majority of us seem determined to carry the battle onward, regardless of the apparate odds. But underneath it all there still lurks in some corners of the Party an unspoken sense of futility — the idea that it's fun to throw rocks at the state, but, what the hell, we know we can't ever win."

HEADLINE: FUNDING WOES BESET NATIONAL OFFICE

"The national LP Headquarters Fund, after a rapid start that featured four contributions of \$1,000 or greater, is now seriously short of funds. 'If we don't receive some substantial donations from LP members within the next two months,' explained Chairman Edward H. Crane, 'a number of the activities at our headquarters will have to be curtailed.'"

The story also noted that Bryan Remer, 30, had been hired as the first full-time paid employee of the national LP, and that he coordinated the activities of the national headquarters in San Francisco in his capacity as administrative assistant to Crane.

September-October 1984

This "LP Campaign Special" of 44 pages included a lengthy interview with presidential candidate David Bergland, who said, in part: "The Libertarian Party is viewed as credible, I think, primarily because we have just continued to exist and continued to work in a consistent fashion. Perhaps one of the changes I've seen is that few media interviewers seem to be trying to find a way to trip you up and see if you will give an inconsistent answer. They're now just more interested in finding out what we really have to say and how things are going."

And National Chair Paul Grant noted in his monthly column that those who still had faith in the government "probably also think we have a 'relatively free' economy. Relative to what? That slave pen called the Soviet Union? You don't own anything, at least not legally. If you 'own' real property, in reality you rent it from the government, in the form of property taxes. Don't pay the taxes, and the government will take it back. ... Should libertarians join with government leaders to promote programs such as the flat tax, VAT, expanded IRA's and Keough's, etc., and by so doing, promote people's confidence and trust in government? Not if they value their liberty. I value my freedom. Government is the enemy of freedom. I don't trust the government to act in my best interests. It's that simple."

GUEST COMMENTARY

All we lose are our parking tickets!

How many libertarians does it take to screw in a light bulb? None. The free market will handle it.

Hahahahaha!

Seriously, though, we libertarians often get a bum rap for our alleged insistence that the free market can immediately solve all of life's problems. This is a mischaracterization.

By Anthony Gregory

Libertarians don't believe the free market is a god-like panacea, only that it is the best,

most humane economic system possible in the real world, and that central planning always leads to disaster and human suffering.

But, many of our critics like to accuse us of not living in the real world. They say, "You crazy Libertarians! You guys probably want to privatize the roads!"

Indeed, we do. Or at least I do. Privatizing the roads is one very important and under-appreciated step we can take toward liberty.

Living in Berkeley, Calif., I have racked up no less than \$500 in parking tickets, probably more. I hate parking tickets almost as much as I hate mosquitoes.

In Berkeley, the parking Gestapo mark the tires of parked cars with chalk to keep track of how long they've been in one spot. Who gave them permission to put chalk on my tires? I didn't. Must be part of the social contract I never signed.

If you rub the chalk off after seeing it, they can still ticket you because they have alternate means of keeping track of which cars are parked where and when they were parked. Worse still, if you rub the chalk off your tires, it can earn you an inflated fine — as if you've obstructed justice or something.

Resourceful tyrants! If they were this efficient at stopping violent crime, I might still be a minarchist.

My friend Jeff and I share a radical libertarian perspective on the world. One of the few things we disagree on is the question of roads and parking tickets.

Don't misunderstand: He believes roads should be privatized. But until then, he sees complaining motorists in the congested Bay Area traffic as rabble-rousers who falsely believe they have some "right" to park their cars in public space, no matter how much they inconvenience others. I tend to sympathize with the drivers, and save my animosity for the parking enforcement regime.

The thing is, as Jeff points out, without price mechanisms, we can't know exactly how much parking is worth, and since the state monopolizes the city streets, which are a limited resource, we need some way of keeping people from leaving their

SUVs on the street until the end of time, or at least until we privatize the roads (which is, of course, the ideal solution, and the only way to really settle this problem).

But the other thing is, as I point out, the city of Berkeley doesn't predominately enforce parking to mimic a market function — as poor as such emulation would be — but to collect revenue. It's just another tax. The city government makes millions this way annually, and is always trying to find more efficient ways to loot more. I'm sure this is true for many other towns as well.

It is also a major pain in the behind to get a parking sticker, which allows you to leave your car next to your own home for more than two hours without

"Well, the City of Berkeley is going to catch up to them one day," she retorted, triumphant sadistic glee emanating from her eyes. "And they're going to be in big trouble. You just wait."

Ooooo! I was shaking in my Converse shoes.

In truth, she was probably right. In a town with profligate laptop theft and the occasional mugging, the Berkeley cops spend much time going after parking violators, pot-smokers and small businesses that don't conform to city standards in their toilets' flushing capacities.

If they privatized the roads and allowed more private parking garages, rent might be a tad higher, but at least there would be places to park. And we'd all save money in the long run by not maintaining the parking-enforcement brigade.

Many skeptics of libertarianism like to say, "Ahah! I got you! Without government, who would build interstate roads?"

Actually, thousands of private and community roads were built without government involvement in 19th century America. It turns out that people want to get from here to there, and the same market incentives and voluntary human effort that brought us computers, televisions, radios and brain surgery can also manage to build one of the oldest technologies in human history: a strip of land adequately cleared of debris so we can travel on it.

Many of the privately built roads were stolen by the state, but they can be given back.

The way I see it, it is very eerie that the state controls the means of transportation: How scary and repressive that the government can control our movement, put up roadblocks whenever and wherever it pleases, and treat our cars like government property while we're on the highways.

Government roads are shoddy, anyway. It amazes me that some people think they are a triumph of good government. Have these people ever driven on the same freeways I have? Do they really believe that these potholed abominations, constructed via unionized bureaucratic pork-filled government spending, are the reason we put up with confiscatory taxes, perpetual war and arrogant government officials?

Socialism is the price we pay for mobility, dang it! Without surrendering our liberty we could never be able to get from one place to the other!

No, no, no. I say: Privatize the roads! Liberate the streets! All we have to lose are our parking tickets!

One of these days a light will go on in the heads of the street statists. We should help screw in that light, because I'm not sure that the market will do so on its own.



being leeched out of \$36 by the Berkeley bureaucracy. You need some "evidence" that you live where you live, preferably a utility bill.

When I tried to get a parking sticker, my roommate at the time had his name on all the utility bills. All I had addressed to me were mailings from the Independent Institute, some NRA literature, and an affidavit signed by my roommate, testifying that I did, in fact, live there. That wouldn't suffice.

I asked for a temporary sticker, and the parking bureaucrat peered at me angrily and said, "The City of Berkeley will give you the privilege this time, but only because it is giving you a privilege."

Not yet put in my place, I said, "I know people with parking permits without any of the evidence of their residence that you demand."

New study: 170+ schools use World's Smallest Political Quiz

Students in 39 states are learning that libertarians are an integral part of the American political spectrum, thanks to the increasing popularity of the World's Smallest Political Quiz.

That's according to a new study by the Advocates for Self-Government, which found that more than 170 schools in the United States and around the world have started using the quiz in the classroom.

"A new generation of students has been exposed to a more accurate, more diverse political map that includes libertarians, thanks to the growing acceptance of the World's Smallest Political Quiz," said Advocates President Sharon Harris. "That's an important breakthrough for libertarians, who have traditionally been excluded from the left-right political spectrum."

The World's Smallest Political Quiz asks 10 questions about economic and personal issues. Based on the answers, a person's political position is pinpointed on the diamond-shaped "Nolan Chart." That five-way political map includes Conservative, Liberal, Centrist, Libertarian and Statist.

The quiz is based on an expanded model of politics developed in 1969 by LP founder David Nolan. In 1987, Advocates for Self-Government founder Marshall Fritz added 10 questions to help people determine their exact place on Nolan's chart.

More than 7 million printed copies of the quiz have been distributed, and 3.2 million people have taken the online version of the quiz.

The Advocates' study, conducted in August, examined online syllabuses, lesson plans and class assignment pages from schools around the United States and the world.

According to the research, 174 universities, colleges, high schools, middle schools, preparatory academies and elementary schools have utilized the quiz. In those schools, the quiz was assigned as part of a specific lesson plan, was available for extra credit or was listed as an online resource for additional study.

The schools using the quiz ranged from the prestigious (Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government) to the little-known (Winnebago High School in Nebraska).

The schools spanned 39 states across the country, from Colony High School in Palmer, Alaska, to Florida International University in Miami; and from the University of Maine at Orono to Santa Monica College in California.

Seven of the schools were outside the United States — three in Canada and one each in Japan, Turkey, Singapore and Spain.

The quiz was usually assigned to teach students about different political ideologies or about the broad spectrum of political beliefs, according to the study.

In 79 percent of the schools, it was used in a U.S. politics, U.S.

government, political science, social studies, civics or related class. In 4 percent of schools, it was used in a world history or world affairs class. In another 17 percent, it was used in nonpolitical classes.

Instructors said the quiz helped students understand the differences between the various political ideologies.

"I have been using the quiz in my American government class for about five years," said Sean D. Foreman, a professor at Union Institute

& University in North Miami, Fla. "Students usually find it to be an eye-opener."

W. Phillips Shively, a professor of political science at the University of Minnesota, said the quiz "is a fun way to get more information on the different political ideologies."

The quiz has also begun earning endorsements from educational organizations.

"The World's Smallest Political Quiz [can be used] in political science classes to develop an un-

derstanding of one's political philosophy and how it compares to the political philosophy of others," the California State University Social Sciences Research and Instructional Council reported.

The results of the Advocates' study should further accelerate the acceptance of the World's Smallest Political Quiz as a legitimate teaching tool, Harris said.

"The fact that over 170 academic institutions already use the quiz can only enhance its credibility,"

she said. "And this research will make it easier for us to approach more teachers and professors and invite them to also use this valuable educational tool."

The Advocates for Self-Government is a nonprofit organization that teaches libertarians how to be more effective communicators, and encourages the public to understand and embrace libertarian ideas.

For a complete list of schools using the quiz, visit www.TheAdvocates.org/quiz-in-class-list.html.

A LIBERTARIAN VICTORY DRAWS NEAR

R. SCOTT BLUDORN

For State Representative • Illinois

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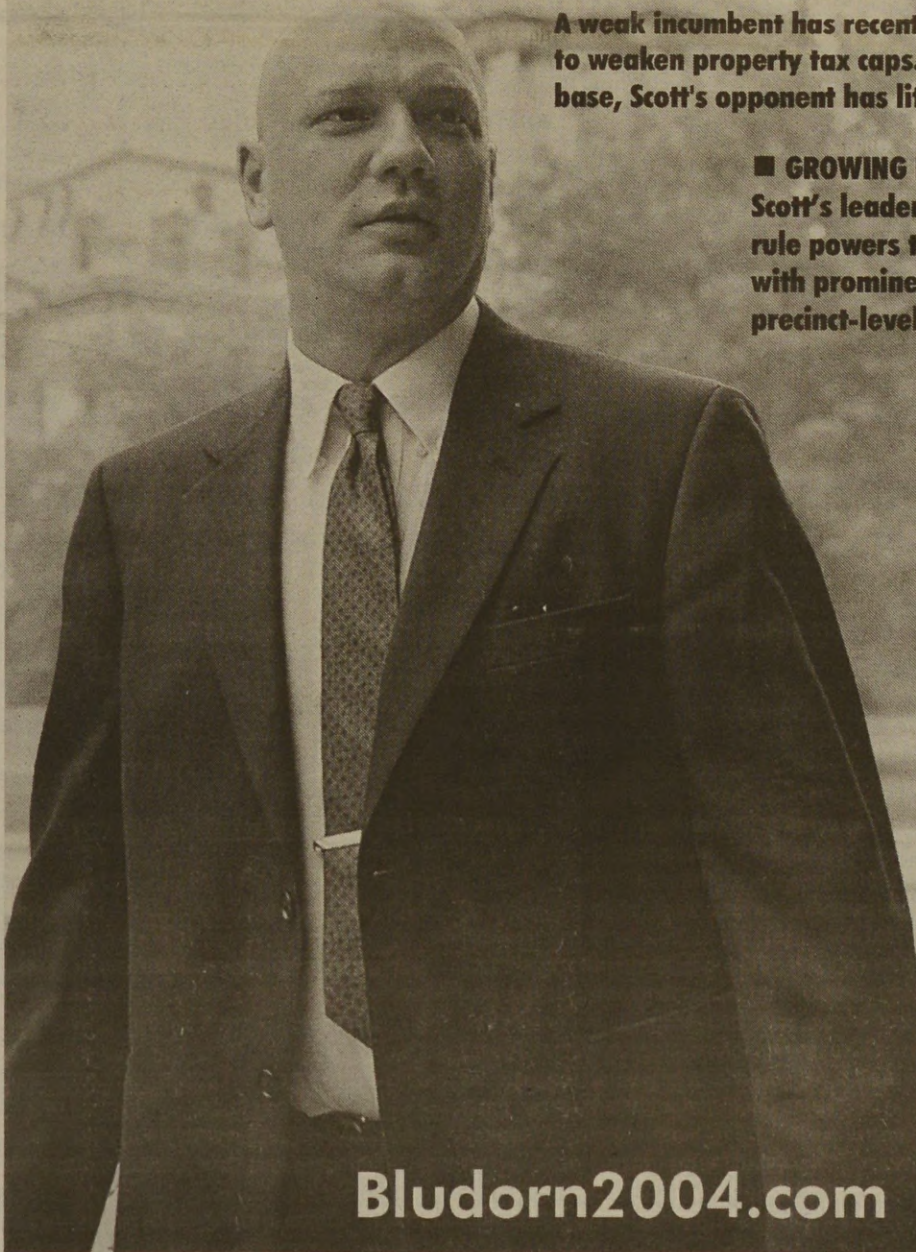
Years of community leadership have earned Scott positive media coverage, with over 35 news articles and multiple media appearances. And there's more planned.

■ THE PERFECT STORM

A weak incumbent has recently angered homeowners by voting to weaken property tax caps. Redistricted out of 85% of his political base, Scott's opponent has little support from his own party.

■ GROWING LIBERTARIAN IMPACT




Scott's leadership helped kill a scheme to expand home rule powers to tax & regulate. He has forged alliances with prominent activist organizations. Bludorn now has precinct-level manpower in place throughout the district.



Pitch for help. We can't let this rare opportunity slip away. We have funded phone banks, direct mail & yard signs but we need your immediate help to elect Scott and send a clear message to the incumbent parties that the Libertarians have arrived. We need to raise an additional \$57,000 in the next ten days for our homestretch media blitz. Illinois has no contribution limits and out of state support is accepted. Dramatic growth in Libertarian influence is at hand.

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To celebrate, we're offering a **20% DISCOUNT** and **FREE SHIPPING** if you buy them by the box. Normally, these brochures sell for 25 cents each, but you can get them for under **19 CENTS** each if you purchase them by the box in quantities of 650 or more. **That's just \$120 per box — plus we'll pay the shipping!**

"A New Vision for America" is a 24-page, full-color outreach brochure ... a prospecting tool that presents our vision for America in a positive, upbeat manner. And it's loaded with gorgeous photographs of Libertarians in action. "A New Vision for America" takes a warm, human approach — telling true stories that illustrate Libertarian principles. Instead of focusing on how bad the Republicans and Democrats are, we gently ask readers to imagine a better America — an America of prosperity, tolerance, and freedom.

This pocket-sized (8.5" by 4") booklet fits easily in a pocket or purse, and is perfect for handing out at state fairs, politically homeless booths and other outreach events. Order your "New Vision for America" brochures today! Smaller orders are priced at **\$25 per 100**. (LP pays shipping.)

LP Literature & Books

■ **Why Government Doesn't Work** by Harry Browne. The 1996 Presidential campaign manifesto: Explains why government doesn't work, and why it will never work as well as voluntary solutions. Outlines a Libertarian plan for victory. Hardbound, 245 pages. **Cost:** \$11.95

■ **Libertarianism In One Lesson** by David Bergland. Expanded 8th edition. The classic introductory work. Outlines Libertarian positions on all major political issues and contrasts them to liberals and conservatives. A must-read. Softbound, 158 pages. **Cost:** \$10 each; or 5 for \$35.

■ **Which Political Party is 100% Pro-Gun Rights?** Full-page flyer. 2-color (red & blue). Hard-hitting defense of the Second Amendment, designed especially for the gun community. Explains why the LP will never betray gun owners — unlike the Republican Party, which constantly sells them out. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$7 for 100

■ **America's Libertarian Heritage** by David Bergland. 16-page booklet. Concise overview of Libertarian philosophy and solutions in an easy-to-read question-and-answer format. **Cost:** \$1 each

■ **Million Dollar Bills:** Green Ink. A faux \$1,000,000 bill that highlights excessive federal spending — and points out that the federal government spends more than \$1 million every five seconds. Perfect for Tax Day, taxpayer groups, and almost any other outreach project! **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100

2-COLOR ★ LIBERTARIAN PARTY BROCHURES ★ 4-COLOR



2-COLOR

- Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again
- Ending the Welfare State
- What Happened to Your Family Budget?
- Equal Rights for America's Gun Owners

4-COLOR

- Is This the New Political Party You've Been Looking For?
- Working to Cut Your Taxes
- It's Time for a More Sensible Drug Policy



2-color brochures: Sample: 50¢ ★ Or \$7 for 100 / 4-color brochures: Sample: 50¢ ★ Or \$10 for 100

■ **LP "Fact Sheets":** Updated for 2003: 2-page LP history (with political highlights, accomplishments, and victories from 1971-2003) and a comprehensive two-page bibliography (featuring more than 150 books about liberty!). Sold as a set. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$10 for 100

World's Smallest Political Quiz cards.

Perfect for "politically homeless" booths. **Cost:** \$1 for 100

Bumper Stickers

\$1 each; \$7.50 for 10; \$50 for 100. Size: 11" x 3"

■ **ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/VOTE LIBERTARIAN** (Red, white, & blue.)

■ **I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!** (Red, white, & blue.)

■ **Don't Blame Me ... I Voted Libertarian** (Blue & white; 800-ELECT-US phone number below.)

■ **Vote Libertarian/800-ELECT-US** (Blue & white.)

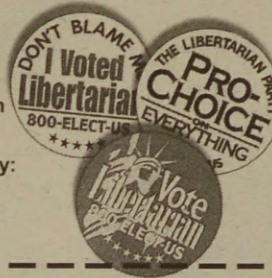
Buttons

Cost: \$1 each; \$7.50 for 10; \$50 for 100

■ **Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian** 1-800-ELECT-US

■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-ELECT-US

■ **Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything** 1-800-ELECT-US



Tools for Campaigning

■ **Libertarian Political Action: Techniques for Effective Campaigning:** 32 pages. Comprehensive explanation of winning campaign techniques for Libertarian candidates. Includes everything from creating a campaign timeline, deciding on issues, raising money, working with volunteers, dealing with the media, and organizing a Get Out The Vote (GOTV) effort. A must read for every Libertarian candidate — state, local, or federal! **Cost:** \$3.00 each

■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo master.** Camera-ready sheet, ready for scanning. **Cost:** \$1 each

■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo on PC Disk:** 3.5" DOS-compatible computer disk. **Cost:** \$3 each

■ **Newsprint Ads:** "Libertarian Party — Defenders of Liberty." Camera-ready print ads. One each of six different ads: General, lifestyle, drugs, guns, draft, and taxes. Plus additional multi-sized "Lower Taxes/More Freedom" LP advertisements. **Cost:** \$3 for set

Banners

■ **Large Banner.** (18" x 5'). White lettering on bold blue background. The first line says: "Libertarian Party." The second line says: "800-ELECT-US." Perfect for local Libertarian Party meetings, state or county conventions, Operation Politically Homeless (OPH) booths, etc. **Cost:** \$40 each

ORDER FORM

There is no charge for standard shipping. Allow up to 2-3 weeks for delivery. Or: Add \$5 for same-day shipping. Call (202) 333-0008 Ext. 221 for instructions on rush deliveries. Minimum order: \$5.00. Orders shipped via UPS; please add \$5 for Post Office box deliveries. Make checks payable to: Libertarian Party.

Ready-to-use Literature

Q'NTY	COST
_____	TABLOID (4-c): "Libertarian Viewpoint"
_____	BOOKLET (4-c): "A New Vision for America"
_____	Brochure (4-c): "Is This/New Political Party...?"
_____	Brochure (4-c): "More Sensible Drug Policy"
_____	Brochure (4-c): "Working to Cut Your Taxes!"
_____	Brochure (4-c): "What Happened/ Family Budget?"
_____	Brochure: "Ending the Welfare State"
_____	Brochure: "Making Neighborhood Safe Again"
_____	Brochure: "Equal Rights/America's Gun Owners"
_____	Flyer: "Political Party/100% Pro-Gun Rights?"
_____	America's Libertarian Heritage booklet
_____	Fact Sheets: LP history/bibliography (package)
_____	World's Smallest Political Quiz
_____	"Million Dollar Bill" Literature

Bumper Stickers

_____	Don't Blame Me...I Voted Libertarian
_____	I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!
_____	OUT OF STOCK VOTE LIBERTARIAN
_____	Vote Libertarian/1-800-ELECT-US

Banners

_____	"LIBERTARIAN PARTY" (18"h x 5'w)
_____	Second line says: "1-800-ELECT-US"

Tools for Campaigning

_____	Libertarian Political Action Booklet
_____	Statue of Liberty logo master
_____	LP Statue of Liberty logo on 3-1/2" PC disk
_____	Newsprint ads: "Libertarian Party — Defenders of Liberty" set of seven.

Books for Sale

_____	Why Government Doesn't Work
_____	By Harry Browne
_____	Libertarianism In One Lesson
_____	By David Bergland

Buttons

_____	Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian
_____	OUT OF STOCK 1-800-ELECT-US
_____	Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything

Total Due

_____	Merchandise Total
_____	RUSH handling: Add \$5 for same-day handling
_____	RUSH shipping: Call office to arrange
_____	Send to a Post Office Box: \$5 extra
_____	TOTAL PAYMENT DUE

[] Cash, check, or money order enclosed. (No corporate checks!)

Bill my: [] Visa [] MasterCard [] AMEX [] Discover

Acct. # _____

Expires _____ Signature _____

Name _____

Membership ID# [On label] _____

Street _____

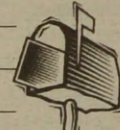
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

HOW TO PLACE YOUR ORDER



Phone:
(202)
333-0008
Ext. 221

By Fax:
(202)
333-0072



By Mail:
Libertarian Party
2600 Virginia
Avenue, NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20037

Washington Libertarians will likely keep major-party status

Fears that new election laws in Washington could cost the Libertarian Party to lose major-party status in that state have apparently been allayed, state LP Chair Larey McLaren says.

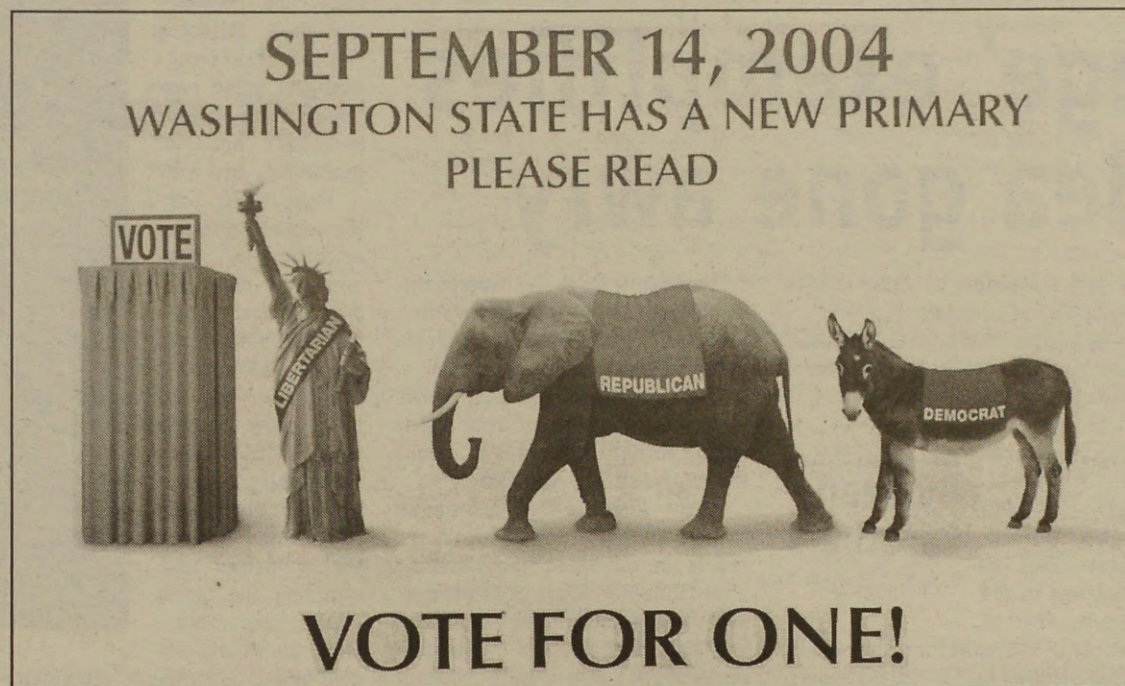
Under the state's new primary election law, voters must cast votes for only one of the three major parties — Libertarian, Republican or Democrat.

This new law — which was approved earlier this year after a federal court declared the state's old blanket primary to be unconstitutional — doesn't allow voters to select candidates from multiple parties. Some Libertarians feared that voters who earlier would have voted for Libertarians would stop doing so, causing the LP to lose ballot access in the state.

Each major party candidate "must achieve a minimum of one percent of the votes in the primary in order to proceed to the general election," McLaren said.

"We can no longer plan on getting a significant number of people who, for instance, vote Democrat [but also vote] for one or two Libertarians," LP gubernatorial candidate Ruth Bennett said in a recent article in the Washington LP newsletter. "This year they must choose which ballot to vote, and the odds are it won't be the Libertarian!"

"In raw numbers, this means



■ Thanks to a new primary election law in Washington state, each voter received a mailing featuring this graphic. It would have cost the LP millions to get so much publicity, LPWS officials noted.

that we need to convince 15,000 Washington State voters to choose a Libertarian ballot and vote only Libertarian," Bennett noted. About 2,500 people have been members or contributors to the LPWS at some time in the past few years.

"Because it's the first time in 70 years that we've had to select primary ballots by party, we didn't

know what was going to happen," McLaren said. "But it turns out that we had a very solid 1 percent that selected the Libertarian ballot."

As of Sept. 19, the results of the Sept. 14 primary election had not been certified, so all of the vote totals were preliminary, "but it does look like many of our candidates are going to make it to the general elec-

tion," McLaren said.

To maintain major-party status for the party, a Libertarian candidate in a statewide race must receive 5 percent or more of the votes cast in the general election.

"We achieved major-party status in 2000 by getting at least 5 percent of the vote in three statewide races — for lieutenant governor, state

auditor and commissioner of public lands," McLaren said. "2004 will be the first time when we have to reach that level again."

"We are very confident and excited that at least one of our candidates will make the 5 percent level. We think it looks very favorable, and we are on the verge of making history. If we retain our major-party status this time around, it will be the first time in decades that a third party has successfully maintained its major-party status in a second election."

"Ross Perot got enough votes in the 90s to get major-party status for the Reform Party, but they lost it in the next election."

The new primary law gave the LP the option of giving up major-party status, which would have enabled candidates to collect petition signatures in order to go directly to the general election, but the state LP declined to give up its status.

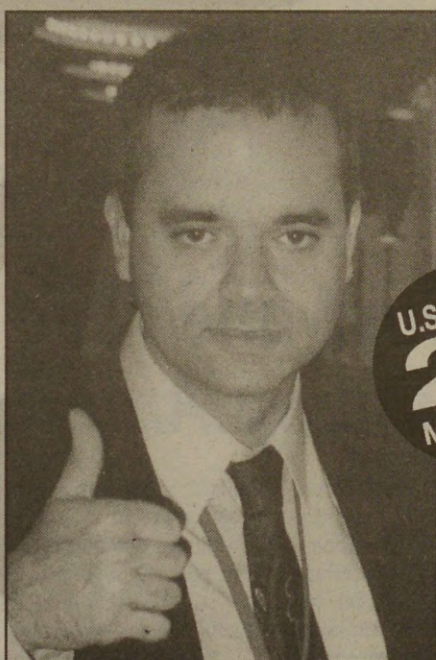
One definite advantage of major-party status: The Libertarian Party was included (along with the Republicans and Democrats) in a voter-education campaign that included having a brochure mailed out to every voter in the state.

And Lady Liberty got equal time in statewide radio and TV ads — where the LP voting symbol was presented along with the donkey and elephant.

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Frank Gonzalez has been endorsed by:

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- National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) •
- Anthony Lorenzo (chairman of Citizens for Instant Runoff Voting, CIRV) •



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21
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Frank Gonzalez is locked in a 2-way race (no Democrat)

Republican rival is now unpopular due to Cuba embargo stance.

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Frank's only real challenge is advertising on TV, radio and print.

This costs money. Please contribute generously. You really matter.

Our triumph will start a firestorm of Libertarian victories across the nation.

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THE FORUM

'The Village' exemplifies a good idea gone awry

Having experienced films such as "The Sixth Sense" and "Signs," we moviegoers expect the unexpected when we check out an M. Night Shyamalan film, and he sure delivers with his recent trick flick, "The Village."

What a trick, and even better, what a treat.

If you haven't seen "The Village" yet, please do so. I'm a Libertarian so I won't force you to stop reading — but if you continue reading you may spoil some of the thrill of seeing this movie without any preconceived ideas.

The surprise was its central libertarian theme: Government doesn't solve problems, it creates them.

While great libertarian thinkers have given us much proof that the "it takes a village" solution is a cure worse than the disease, Shyamalan shows us the village.

Movies frequently trigger friendly debates over entertainment value, plot value, acting quality and overall grade. This movie was different. It sent me into rapid-fire applause with its concealed political value

— and I was able to share it with my apolitical friends.

It became the instant conversation gateway that we Libertarians so often lack.

In "The Village," fear is the gospel of the elders — the village's government. Fear of monsters in the woods. Fear of people in towns beyond the woods. Fear, inspired by the village elders. Why is this government instilling such terror in the villagers and the children? It can't be for monetary gain; this village has no system of money.

Maybe it's power that corrupts. I can't imagine anything more addicting, more destructive or more overlooked than the pursuit of power. I contend that playing God is the deadliest of deadly sins.

With their governing powers, the village elders instill fear in the villagers to quell free thinking and choice. Why? To control the people.

By Sean Carothers

To preserve their social experiment. To protect their vision of a peaceful, prosperous world — which is ruled by terror (or fears of terrorism?).

The protagonist in this movie values her life so much that she is willing to risk it in order to pursue the happiness life can afford.

The elders' one-size-fits-all scheme doesn't fit this girl, so she enters the forbidden woods seeking a medicine her rulers can't provide. She does so not only as a blind girl and against the wishes of her government, but also despite constant fear.

Where they have every advantage, she has every disadvantage. Yet she doesn't run from her terrors. She confronts them. She runs into the deep dark woods, and the disgusting truth is revealed: The villains, the monsters, were just the village elders dressed up in silly costumes.

In the movie, it's a surprise. It's unexpected. But isn't it true that silly costumes are the customary disguise of all government lies and fear? We only need to be close

enough to discover the farce, to see the human eyes peeking out from beneath the bad stitching — in short, to recognize the grand mistake of limiting your neighbor's choice, of prohibiting free will.

Even in the movie's seemingly simple setting, the government's plans are cruel, no matter how well-intended, and their end is failure.

What about our much more complicated world? Yes, the monsters in our world are much more complicated. But like the monsters surrounding the "movie village," our "monsters" are mostly created by our government, our elders.

Monsters like illiteracy, drugs, poverty, low retirement savings, bad health care and Osama bin Laden are all government creations — or at least problems that we could face much better on our own than we can with government interference.

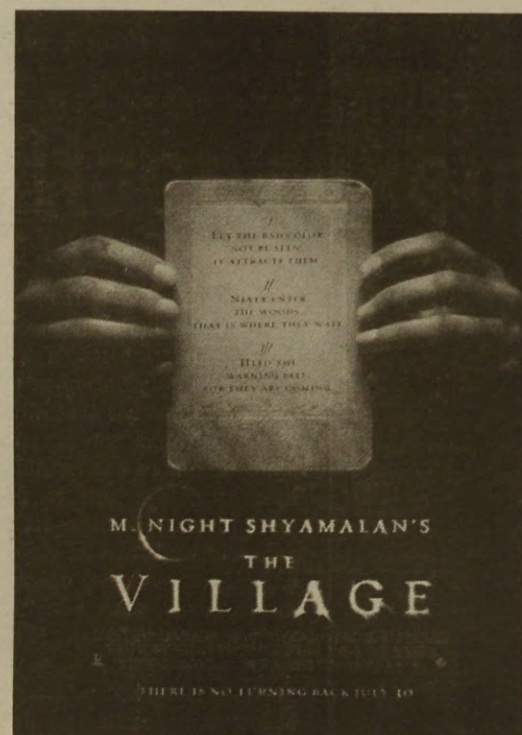
The government solution for everything: war. Wars on Iraq, on illiteracy, on drugs, on poverty. They say our world would be a scary place without government solutions.

Yeah, it would be really scary to live in a world without war, a world where we make decisions for our-

selves.

I found "The Village" to be a remarkably soft medium — a film to be shared with others, to introduce the idea that government doesn't work, and that even in a seemingly ideal setting, government means are ultimately destructive and ineffectual. If you listen with your libertarian ear, you'll have no trouble hearing the sounds of irrational, government-produced fear.

■ **About the author:** Sean Carothers is from Marlton, N.J., and has been an LP member for eight years.



Voting for a 'lesser evil' still allows the evil to prevail

The process of electing a president in this country has become a disgrace.

There was a time not so long ago when this most important event was one of dignity and intelligent discussion — an occasion whereby voters were given the opportunity to actually measure how well the candidates might perform the job if elected.

Conventions used to be where the delegates would select their candidate, often after several rounds of debate, discussion and voting.

Not anymore. The Republican and Democrat conventions have become massive special effects video opportunities, and a chance for rafts of free television time, wherein huge volumes of largely meaningless rhetoric are spewed forth like lava from a volcano. At taxpayer expense.

When I hear the question, "Do we have a two-party system or not?" my answer is an emphatic "No."

We have a one-party system, which explains why the substantive discussions no longer take place: The Republicans and Democrats are the same.

Thus, the only things left to "discuss" are matters of a more per-

sonal nature. You know, like "did he or didn't he earn those medals? Did he or didn't he properly serve in the National Guard?"

When asked the "tough" questions, such as, "Mr. Candidate, how do you propose to deal with the domestic economic condition?" the reply is more rhetoric: "My administration will make sure that American jobs stay in America." "My administration will make sure that businesses are provided with incentives to stay in business."

Fine, but how? Remember when they used to reveal the actual plan so that we could judge its merits? And let's not forget the days when the answer was not always to initiate another government program.

The solution to this is to allow other parties into the game. Not in the token ways they are now, but fully, including being allowed to take part in the debates, a process largely disallowed by "the party" for a long time.

If the voters could actually see how a second party candidate honestly, truthfully and directly answered questions, in juxtaposition to the sound-bite ambiguity of "the party's" candidates, the voting decision would be simple. But that would upset "the party's" apple cart, and might very well lead to the recovery of our beloved republic.

If you truly care about this great republic, you will become "party blind," and vote your principles. See where the candidates really stand. If you are frustrated by rhetoric, obfuscation and more government, well, there's your sign.

And, when someone tells you that your vote for a candidate who is not a member of "the party" is a wasted vote, I offer three ideas.

First, there's the old "the lesser

of two evils is still evil."

Second, ask yourself how many of your principles are you really ready to forsake in some attempt to fool yourself into thinking that "it'll be alright, my family has always been demopublican."

And finally, as Edmund Burke said so well, "All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing."

Voting for hollow, rhetorical, pie-

in-the-sky ideas, or for who has the best dirt on whom, will ultimately allow evil to prevail at the expense of our liberties.

■ **About the author:** Bob St. Louis, of Spring Creek, Nev., originally wrote this column as a letter to the editor of the Elko (Nevada) Daily Free Press, which printed it. In 2003, St. Louis was named the Elko County Volunteer Citizen of the Year.

Two parties with just one idea between them: Destroy America

Great things in history seem to only happen at opportune times. But opportunities do not come from a state of nothingness. Usually, someone has to set the conditions to create the new possibilities that can either benefit or harm society.

Today's political issues are the result of 208 years of two-party rule.

The problems — unprecedented budgets and deficits in national, state and local governments; governmental and personal debt that endangers our future as it consumes

potential investment; a foreign policy driven by moneyed special interests — create the potential for upheaval in our political system that threatens our ability to remain a free, prosperous and independent nation.

America has a chance to restore our nation to the principles of government of, by and for the people. Voters have the opportunity this year to take action to restore the natural right to life, liberty and the

pursuit of happiness which would begin a process of overthrowing the unnatural domination of the American political system by tyrants.

In our republic, all citizens should be self-governing.

How far have we come from that ideal? Our system of leadership — two parties with very similar philosophies — is destroying this country more effectively and quickly than anything that Osama bin Laden has done or can ever do.

Many candidates from the Greens, the Constitution Party, the Reform

See **POLITICAL** Page 21

By Bob St. Louis

By Tim Krenz

THE VOLUNTEER

Petitioning for fun and profit

WANTED: College-aged people to earn \$25-100 an hour (based on an easy 50 signatures per hour). Set your own hours and work at beaches, rock concerts, street fairs and college campuses this summer as we put on the ballot candidates who are anti-war, anti-draft, pro-legalization and pro-tuition tax credits. Being a Libertarian is not required but is a plus. You should have the social skills to talk to hundreds of people like yourself every day. No experience necessary, will train. Earnings not usually taxed.

This is the ad that the LP should use in advertising for petitioners.

I worked on petition drives from 1973-1988. I had many interesting times and met great people — even squeezing in some sightseeing at Yellowstone, in Boston and San Francisco — and attended many great festivals, all while helping the Libertarian movement.

The great thing about being paid per signature is that there is never any question as to whether you were overpaid or underpaid for your work. There is no office politics, no problem with workers getting in each other's way.

Of course like any sales job, petitioning has to be done right. Here is what I have learned about this important work:

Where to go

Petitioning is best where there are large groups of people that are not in a hurry. It helps if they are enjoying themselves. Some examples include

beaches and boardwalks, street fairs and other public celebrations, large rock concerts, country fairs, swap meets and racing events.

Some cities have street fairs every weekend. Start

collecting signatures as soon as they open and work till you drop. In an optimal situation like this, it's not uncommon to collect up to 50 or 60 signatures per hour.

Go to large colleges that are in session. Sometimes you can work the inside of buildings (like cafeterias) when the weather is bad, and students can do a little recruitment in their off hours.

Concerts work great. Start collecting signatures as soon as people line up, until the line moves. Then buy a ticket, enjoy the concert, and work the crowd again as people exit. Outdoor concerts are even better, but don't intrude on people who are listening to the music. Even outdoor classical music concerts can give a good signature yield.

Go to ferry points, train stations and bus terminals — if they have enough traffic and you can get permission. If you can't get permission to work the inside of the terminal, work just outside. Approach people who are waiting, rather than those who are rushing. You can even try petitioning on a ferry, bus or train.

Any given location can be "worked out" in a few days. Move on

to a different location after you've exhausted one area, and let other people who are collecting signatures know when you've exhausted a specific area.

Who will sign

Quickly size up your approaching signer. Ask them to help you get a friend of yours on the ballot and point to the lowest office on the petition. For some people that is all they need to know to sign and they will.

There is no need to offer more info and you need to save your energy. Tell them it is for the Libertarian Party if they ask and tell them that anyone who is not a Republican or Democrat has to do this just to get on the ballot.

If you are inexperienced, it is good to work with at least one other person. But whether you are by yourself or with another petitioner or two, here are a few pointers to keep in mind. Remember, there are always exceptions to these rules:

Young people are more inclined to sign than older people.

People who are wearing suits are less inclined to sign than others.

Petitioning where there is a low traffic flow (or going from door to door) will result in lower signature rate.

When starting out for the first time, try to get a finished page from someone since it is difficult for a person to be the first to sign a petition. Keep a few finished sheets on your clipboard to give the effect that many people have supported our right to be on the ballot.

Say that we have been on the ballot in every presidential campaign for many elections, and make sure

you are courteous.

Don't proselytize

One of the biggest mistakes Libertarians make is going into too much detail or trying to convert rather than just saying that the signature is to help get on the ballot. That is one reason mercenaries — paid petitioners — do well.

If they ask what you are about say that you want to reduce and decentralize government. If they are young or appear "countercultural," you may want to mention our marijuana position.

Avoid discussion unless there is no one else to talk to. If someone is interested in learning more, you can tell them where to find the LP on the Internet. If they are particularly interested and enthusiastic, ask them if they would like to help in the campaign.

Work smart

Pace yourself. Take a break when it is slow. On weekends work hard when there are events and parks and beaches are full. Take a day off if the weather is bad. After the drive is over reward yourself and do some sightseeing before you go to the next drive. Enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow Libertarians.

If you are running a petition drive, contact those who ran previous drives to get advice and contact veteran petitioners.

Keep a record of the drive, ensuring that you know how well the drive is paced, so you can avoid having an expensive drive turn into failure.

Make a record of good petitioning spots and events.

List people who are willing to

give housing or a home-cooked meal to out-of-state petitioners. This home touch is good for morale. It is also a good idea for candidates to have dinner with the petitioners — so that the petitioners can honestly say, "I am trying to get a friend of mine on the ballot."

Know your history

Find out whether petitions in the state have been challenged by state election officials or other political parties in the past.

Find out if signatures can be turned in as batches — rather than all at once. If so, you can determine a validity rate for your signatures, and you'll know whether a big safety margin is needed.

Remember to keep a record of the campaign in your state as well. Record debates and interviews and critique them. Keep a list of stories about the campaign and friendly media. Anyone who helped in any way should be on that list for the next year.

Keep at it

No matter what happens, don't get depressed.

Keep approaching people.

In my experience, one or two out of every four people approached will sign the petition. If you are not getting this result, find someone who is doing better than you to give you a critique — perhaps by standing within earshot as you give your spiel.

Good hunting.

■ **About the author:** Don Meinshausen is the debate coordinator for the Michael Badnarik for President campaign.

More political parties help

Continued from Page 20

Party and my own Libertarian Party will appear on national, state and local ballots this year.

Without doubt, the "establishment" leadership is unacceptable.

People are mad for change, but they are afraid of that great fraud about "wasting their votes."

No vote is ever wasted. Things can change if people vote for it. Every vote sends a message.

Most importantly, we can live with a clear conscience that we voted for what we believe instead of voting for choices that powerful people try to force upon us. Also, even if an immediate victory is not won, the votes can tally to an eventual victory.

There is no moral difference in

the policies of President Bush and presidential candidate John Kerry, and this problem permeates all levels of American politics.

We as a nation, as citizens, as electors, need to stop voting for the least bad candidates. We have to start voting for the best alternative to get different results.

Continued trust in an unconstitutional two-party tyranny is definable insanity.

■ **About the author:** Tim Krenz, of Osceola, Wisc., is secretary general of St. Croix Valley Liberty. This piece was sent to about 30 newspapers in the St. Croix Valley area, several of which printed it — including the two largest county newspapers in the four-county region.

DEMOCRATS & REPUBLICANS

BOTH SUCK!

think **LIBERTARIAN.com** © 2004

Let the market — not the FCC — set radio standards

Editor's Note: In recent issues of LP News, various readers have expressed their views on what content should be allowed on radio and television.

One reader, David C. Morris, wrote a letter explaining that he doesn't think Americans will be ready to appreciate liberty "until they first lose their desire to see and hear 'indecent' words and actions."

"I sincerely believe that much of the garbage on radio and television undermines liberty by demeaning persons and showing lack of respect for individuals in general," Morris continued. "For liberty to come back into favor, there has to be a general atmosphere of respect and dignity for each person."

Others have argued that speech must be protected by the First Amendment, that no censorship of radio or television should be allowed.

As Nick Kratz explains in this column, both those who oppose any form of censorship and those who oppose "indecent" on the air are entitled to their opinions. But the solution, he argues, does not lie in giving the FCC the power to punish broadcasters for what they put on the air.

If Libertarianism is to be successful, it will need to harmoniously meet the needs of Mr. Morris, myself, and ideally all Libertarians present and future — including any number of disparate viewpoints.

I was reminded of my 15 years of college radio broadcasting experience, including several years as a music disc jockey.

At our station, each DJ was wholly responsible for selecting the content of his/her program and bore the lion's share of the responsibility for those choices. I often found myself the proud purveyor what I expect many others consider to be "filth."

This was not entirely my idea, and I was far from alone.

Our programming was a matter of consensus between those of us working at the station and those who voluntarily chose to listen to our station — and who participated by routinely phoning in requests. I definitely got more requests for the punk intonations of the Sex Pistols and Suicidal Tendencies than for the more dignified (yet still creative) avant-vocal jazz of Meredith Monk or the lighter, happy new-wave pop of early Depeche Mode.

In short, my colleagues and I strove to meet the needs of our listeners, following the "contemporary community standards" for our area, the San Francisco Bay region.

The First Amendment must protect broadcasts of these sorts of materials, especially when the listening community requests them!

At the same time, some or all of this material would be considered wholly inappropriate in other communities of our nation. How can we reconcile these differences? How can we support different choices in traditional over-air broadcasting?

Toward a solution

The first problem is the application of uniform, "cookie-cutter" regulations, enforcing one set of standards across our whole nation. If we continue to endlessly debate and lobby for irreconcilably different standards, as has been the norm for many years now, few will be truly satisfied and no one fully served.

Solving this first problem will require getting the Federal Communications Commission out of the program content business entirely, substituting instead other content oversight entities relevant to the coverage area of the broadcaster in question.

The FCC was an outgrowth of the Federal Radio Commission, which was established to prevent interference between broadcasters and to eliminate the technical chaos on the early 1900s airwaves.

While I continue to encourage discussion and consideration of completely replacing or eliminating the FCC for any number of reasons, as a practical first step the existing FCC should return to its original mission by sticking to purely technical considerations.

Only when standards are set by true representatives of the actual, local community served by the individual station will we as a nation (again) have over-air mass-media broadcasts that meet each of our particular needs and desires.

Only when forced national McSameness is replaced by localism will the marketplace of ideas answer questions regarding what is "filth," what is "art," what is "timeless," what is a "waste of time," and whether any of this affects us as citizens.

The ongoing national tug-of-war, like other debates over various contentious topics, accomplishes nothing and wastes everyone's resources.

What can be done today?

Here are some constructive suggestions for those who are unhappy enough with broadcast programming in their community that they want to take action.

I make no claim that these suggestions will fully address the issue of radio or TV indecency for us all. Yet any one of us can start influencing broadcast quality — in whatever direction, depending on our varying viewpoints — by taking action now.

That said, no one should think that these suggestions are a way to institute pure Libertarian concepts; these are imperfect suggestions for changing the existing imperfect system, until the tug-of-war insanity can be changed.

First, one's viewpoint needs to be expressed where it will have the most impact. One needs to be specific regarding which programs

Libertarian SOLUTIONS

on which stations are committing which "infractions."

One then needs to document the specifics: What is the name of the program? How is it violating the community's principles or needs or trust? Was it in commercials, in song lyric content, or in announcer or DJ banter?

Is the perceived violation one of commission or of omission? Believe it or not, in the early 1980s I received numerous complaint calls from local punk rockers who thought that the songs I was playing lacked "in-your-face" attitude, and that the songs I selected didn't contain a sufficient number of obscenities!

Document specific examples of what you don't like about specific programs.

Then, armed with this information, move on to the next step: Follow the money. Discover who pays for the programming.

Is it a commercial station? Find out who advertises in the time slots for the shows in question. Are the advertisers local businesses, or national businesses that may be vulnerable locally? Organize a boycott or protest.

Is it a "non-commercial" station? (Don't get me started on the FCC's current definition of non-commercial broadcasting.) These stations probably have underwriters. If so, follow the same steps described above for commercial stations supported by advertising.

Is it listener supported? There may not be much you can do here; your neighbors may be outvoting you. Don't waste your time ranting at the donation-taking volunteer — nothing will happen. Instead, consider the next suggestion: Write letters.

Submit a formal complaint, in writing, preferably on paper and delivered by the USPS, to the station which aired the material. By law, each of these letters needs to be kept in the station's public file, and is a significant consideration to the FCC when the station's license renewal time comes up.

The specific, documented details you gathered while listening to the programs are important to include in your letters to the FCC or the radio station. Their presence, thoroughness, clarity and relevance will strongly help your case.

You get bonus points for understanding and using the FCC's definitions of obscenity, indecency, and profanity, if these considerations are relevant to the complaint. The FCC uses specific definitions for each of these words, derived from case law,

and treats each quite differently, with specific handling rules.

Support what you believe in

If you are strongly in favor of the current programming on certain stations, write formal letters to those stations, telling them specifically what you like about what they're doing.

Most people — both those who support the content and those who dislike it — don't bother writing, so each well-crafted letter carries quite a bit of weight.

I've witnessed more than one station enjoyed by the majority of the community brought down by an organized, vocal minority that is aware of the power of the public file. Only after the demise of the station did the disorganized flood



Don't forget that the new millennium has provided us new broadcast forums, on the Internet. Switch to the multiplicity of online choices, and convince others to join in.

Start your own on-line station if you are so moved. It should be less expensive and easier than the over-air version, and certainly will have fewer government intrusions!

However, the easiest way to show your displeasure with a particular radio or TV station continues to be simply switching the channel.

However, I understand that the eminently easy, convenient, and practical "switch the channel" argument seems not to address the concerns of all, hence the suggestions above.

I can only hope that we can all have enough tolerance to allow disparate viewpoints and materials onto our local community airwaves, allowing the airwaves to serve the needs of our neighbors with whom we may disagree on some matters.

While I would hate to live in a nation restricted to any one of our nation's current or proposed "contemporary community standards" and would likely feel the need to fight any efforts to censor programming, I absolutely and fully support an individual's right to establish a local community whose airwaves are filled with programming valued and supported by that community.

I hope others will respect my right to have access to at least one station that is willing to broadcast the lyrics, "Every kill, kill, kill. Every maim, maim, maim," if I'm in a mood for a last-millennium oldie. (This song — "Good Clean Fun," by the False Prophets — was requested on my show in November of 1983.)

Let the fittest community standards flourish!

Some people have framed this broadcast content dilemma as a "choice between liberty and authority." In this case, the choice between liberty and authority is very clear to me. I choose liberty.

We don't need a group in one area of the country telling everyone else in the United States what they can or cannot listen to, and we certainly don't need the FCC setting standards for what content stations should broadcast.

The Libertarian solutions — market solutions — are out there. Let's use them!

About the author: Nick Kratz, of Pasadena, Calif., volunteered at UC Berkeley's KALX-FM between 1980 and 1995. AKA "New Rat" and now "Sonic Purity," he attempted to meet the contemporary community standards of the station's audience. He has been voting and registered Libertarian since 1980.

Set an example

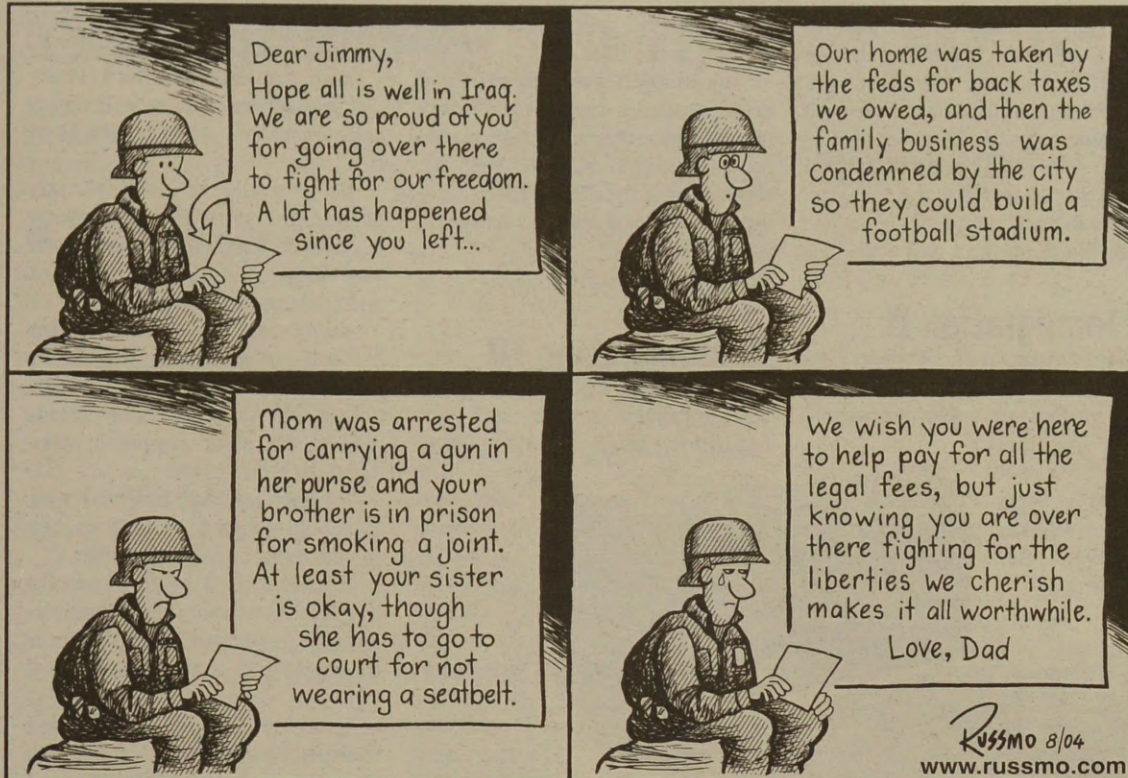
If writing letters of support or reprimand isn't enough for you, set an example by becoming part of the solution in an active way. Help run a station whose programming fulfills the overlooked community needs.

In recent years, the FCC has been pushed to open up wee bits of FM broadcast spectrum to low-power community broadcasters, for the express purpose of allowing alternative voices and viewpoints on the local airwaves.

A couple thousand dollars, legwork, paperwork, and volunteer enthusiasm can get you on the air — at least in smaller, unsaturated radio markets.

Assuming that your views truly represent the local community, there are very likely already others who share those views and who are either running a community station or are working to start one.

Join them. Support them. They will appreciate your help!



THE MAILBOX

■ The school 'Badnarik'

[This letter was forwarded by LP vice presidential candidate Richard Campagna, who said he receives letters "daily from young people who have become attracted to our cause."]

I'm writing to inform you I am the Libertarian presidential candidate in my school's mock election.

First of all, I have always had a great interest in politics, and I have been Republican since the age of eight when I switched from the Democrats (Democratic family). Of course I wasn't very well versed, but I was beginning to see that the Democrats weren't a party I felt I should be with.

I am a sophomore now, so I was ... a Republican for seven years. Over the past few months, however, I have begun to see that they, too, may not be the party for me. I have felt my political stance become more and more libertarian for a while, and that led to my recent decisions.

When the mock election was to be held at my middle and high school, everyone (teachers and students) knew that I would run as "Bush." I would be on the ballot and in debates, and I already have a reputation school wide as being "the President." It was what seemed to be a sure victory.

But I myself wasn't so sure about my beliefs. I decided I would withdraw and run on my own. Nothing was sure at that moment; I went from a sure win to, "you turned liberal?!"

"No, not liberal. Libertarian," I keep saying. I will probably be on the ballot we will be using, though my place in the debates is ... debatable. I'm working really hard, and my team is working really hard.

We have some ideas of our own,

but I suppose one of the reasons I'm writing is to get some from you, or maybe just to let you know that there are high school students interested in the Libertarian Party. So basically, I'm Michael Badnarik, and I'm running for President. My friend Alicia is Richard Campagna (not really, I'm sure you know), and she fell in love with the platform.

People have told us we are making this mock election less realistic, but I say we're showing kids there

**■ DON'T KNOW HOW
Penn and Teller
would feel about the
idea, but they would
be the perfect candi-
dates for president
and vice president.**

—IAN BERNARD

are other options, and there are still people with the ideals of great men like the Founding Fathers.

I'd love to hear back from you, and I hope to be involved with the Libertarian Party someday ... especially as a real candidate.

—JOHN GOODMAN
(via e-mail)

■ A vicious cycle

To those who continue saying they'll vote for "the lesser of two evils": What if you are successful in electing the lesser of two evils? Sure, you avoid the greater evil for a few years, but you cause even more good-natured people to reluctantly

support your version of greater evil in the future, and you are still stuck with lesser evil in the present. You are perpetuating a vicious cycle that has you suffering greater evil about half the time for all of eternity.

—JEFFRY R. FISHER

Vancouver, Washington

■ Penn and Teller

It has been suggested many times in the past that the LP needs to run a celebrity candidate for president so we can get some much needed media time during the campaign. I have always liked this suggestion, but no one could ever really say that they knew of any major celebrities who were actually principled, and not just "small l" libertarians. This newspaper actually did a **Pulse** on this very issue a couple of years ago.

I'm here to suggest that our celebrity candidates have arisen. Penn and Teller have easily become the most widely recognized, principled, noteworthy, celebrity Libertarians. Their brilliant Showtime series, "Penn and Teller's BULLSHIT" has recently been renewed for a third season, and nominated for two Emmys!

You read that right. Two "big L" Libertarians have their own worldwide TV show, and they aren't afraid to use it. If you haven't seen their show, I suggest you do so, now.

I don't know how Penn and Teller would feel about the idea, but they would be the perfect candidates for president and vice president, respectively.

The boys are already wealthy. They already have a large, dedicated following, which is growing on a weekly basis, thanks to "BULLSHIT." They clearly are not afraid to put

THE CHAIR

The main thing is...

"It's all about the presidential campaign."

My immediate and unspoken reaction was, "Says who?"

But then, I am a Libertarian, and I challenge authority and most declarative statements on principle.

It's in vogue now in organizational theory to talk about the "main thing." Of course this is done so that the consultant can talk about how to keep that main thing, the main thing.

So, is the presidential campaign the main thing for the LP? It is certainly an important thing, a vital tactic that many of our members and affiliates use to further their efforts. But, at the end of the day, is it the single unquestioned requirement of our organization, the national Libertarian Party?

The party's purpose (the main thing) is in its bylaws:

"The Party is organized to implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the Statement of Principles by: functioning as a libertarian political entity separate and distinct from all other political parties or movements; moving public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office; chartering affiliate parties throughout the United States and promoting their growth and activities; nominating candidates for President and Vice President of the United States, and supporting party and affiliate party candidates for political office; and entering into public information activities.

The mission, then, seems to me to be more than a simple presidential campaign. But how do we turn it into a plan for action? The LP's Strategic Plan does this, and it is a good document, but a bit cumbersome for daily reference. Like all good consultants, I like to take really big ideas and documents and put them into "back of the envelope" language. Let me take a first cut at this one.

■ **Go.** Meet, talk, represent ourselves and our ideas, and do so in new and different ways to new and different people. Meeting repeatedly with the same folks does not move us toward the goal. How broad a cross section of voters attend your meetings? We have to change our methods — and our mechanisms — and do so continuously.

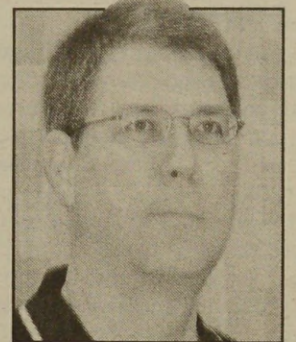
■ **Communicate.** We must make more people aware of our message of freedom and liberty, and show them that our ideas are plausible, reasonable alternatives. I am not suggesting that we focus on making new members. Growing membership is not a panacea, and in fact, an overemphasis on this word ("membership") and its requirements is negative to the listener — and to us — at this point. Why dissuade a voter by focusing on membership and governance rules? Can't we just ask for their support at the polls?

■ **Teach.** As our circle expands and we are communicating more broadly, we must continually lead our new participants to a broader and deeper belief in our message of freedom and liberty. This would seem to be the easiest of the four steps. This is where the core documents (the LP Platform) and the historical work (each of our extensive libraries) comes in. Unfortunately, I believe our libraries may be our worst enemies. Research indicates that most individuals become strengthened in their beliefs by merely being in contact with us during campaign work, community projects and social events — leading up to membership.

The irreducible fact is that it is the personal relationships that exist within the work — not the work or the brilliant, rational, irrefutable arguments — that creates the learning. It is vital to keep in mind that we teach more by example than by didactic action. The parents in my audience know this all too well.

■ **Remember.** As the 2001 Strategic Plan articulated, there is no silver bullet, and what works for one of our organizations may be sub-optimal for others. The local landscape — and your own strengths and weaknesses — are critical elements of your plans. Also, remember that what was done last year in your organization may not have been optimal either. Thirty years of experience is different than one year of experience 30 times in a row.

It is critical that we **Go, Communicate and Teach**, and that we do it continually. In doing so we must worry less about getting it right before we start and worry more about sticking with it long enough to get it right.



By Michael Dixon

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

THE MAILBOX

their careers on the line to support pro-freedom ideas.

Imagine them still having a hugely successful TV show on in 2008, them as our presidential candidates, and even touring the country performing magic shows to fund the campaign!!

Imagine the greatest magic trick of the century: Penn and Teller, the bad boys of magic, make the Republicans and Democrats disappear!

I nominate Penn and Teller for President in 2008!

—IAN BERNARD
Sarasota, Florida

Immigration

I had long thought that the open borders position of the Libertarian Party was too relaxed. Upon reading the proposed platform plank change I have come to the opposite conclusion.

The challenge of routine control of borders is too thorny. It infringes on the rights of private property, travel and free association. Government screening of immigrants for health reasons intrudes into the right of privacy and insinuates government into the personal responsibility for health.

Aliens are inherently of no greater threat to the internal peace in America than American citizens are. Americans could just as easily have perpetrated the Sept. 11 attacks. Immigration control would not have been helpful in that case.

One of the few potential features of terrorism that might be dealt with by geographic restriction is the trafficking of nuclear materials. Since the largest percentage of the world's nuclear materials are already within the United States, trying to prevent their importation does not fully address the problem of protecting ourselves from them.

Also, biological agents created for warfare and thought to be useful to terrorists already exist within the United States.

The only effectual approach to dealing with these substances would be to use international political cooperation to learn the initial source of these substances, and with the help of international intelligence, attempt to track their movements and discern their current locations.

Once again, this sets up government to maintain files on individuals who have not committed crimes and therefore violates the Fourth Amendment & libertarian tenets.

This highlights a perspective that the Libertarian Party has yet to officially address. While the party addresses the Second Amendment's right to bear arms with a platform plank supporting the possession of firearms and personal defensive weapons, no mention is made of weapons of mass destruction.

Do the people have the right to bear arms that can be used for mass death?

And, if so, how are such weapons defined? Is a box cutter a potential weapon of mass destruction?

While locating and tracking substances capable of causing mass death would be more effective than searching for them at borders, it would be more difficult and problematic. It encourages the continued violation of Fourth Amendment rights to privacy of innocents.

These weapons were originally created with traditional warfare in mind. Their creation presumes conflicts of culture against culture, nation against nation, and at least, city against city.

There have always been lunatics in the world and there will always be.

Attempting to divine who they might be, what their intentions might be, what they might use as a weapon, and when they might choose to implement them, not only sets us up for pervasive government monitoring and the meddling of others in our lives, it is impossible. If it were possible, the War on Drugs would have been won by now.

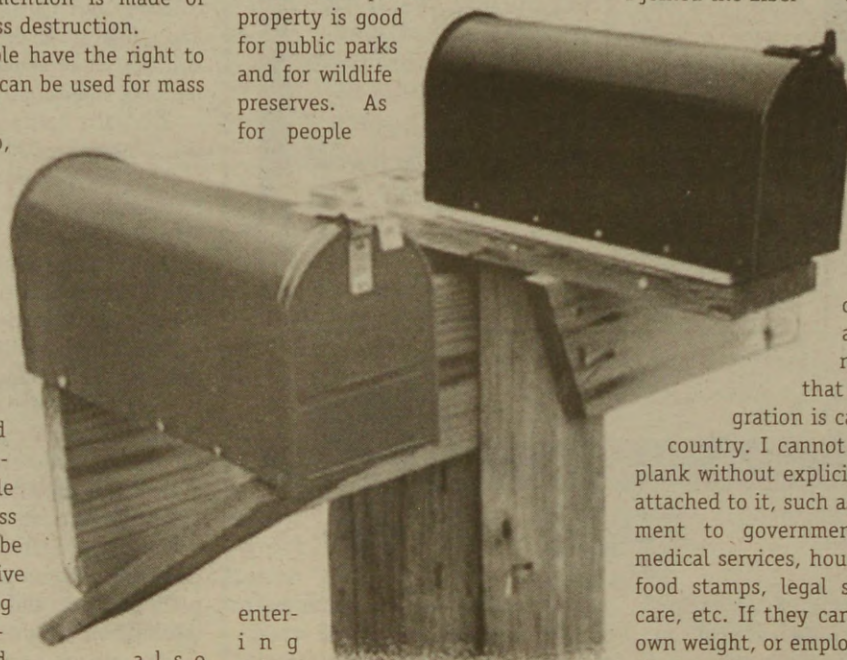
I choose to disregard the threat. Instead I am trying to build a "new world order," in which I pursue my

own aims, attempting no harm to others, showing myself to be no threat, and hoping others will see what I am doing and regard me with the same respect. This is in accordance with the libertarian creed I have come to revere.

—PATRIC R. BROCK
Kihei, Maui, Hawaii

Immigration II

The Forum in the August 2004 issue of *LP News* is against open borders and against public property. I think some public property is good for public parks and for wildlife preserves. As for people



entering the United States only to collect welfare, communities that have public welfare already require at least one year of residence before being eligible.

Nobody can just cross the border and get welfare immediately. Also, communities should replace welfare for those ages 18-65 and not disabled, with real jobs, such as paving and cleaning streets and sidewalks, and assistant police jobs, to patrol all public areas, indoors and outdoors, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to radio or cell phone 911 to report any crimes or accidents or fires they see in progress, to get police, fire engines or ambulances to the scene quickly. This would reduce the crime rate also, as the uniformed presence of the assistant police being a deterrent.

As for the possible criminal background of any immigrants, they might have been forced to become criminals by the policies of their un-

free countries, and would be law-abiding in the USA.

The United States was built and made great by immigrants before quotas and restrictions were placed on immigration. Mongrel dogs are stronger and healthier than purebreds, and so are mongrel nations.

—SAMUEL A. SHAFFE
Winter Haven, Florida

Immigration III

For 20 years, I have been a registered Independent voter. Last year, I joined the Libertarian Party.

For the most part, I embrace the party's platform — except its position on immigration. I am very concerned about the economic burden that illegal immigration is causing to this country. I cannot embrace this plank without explicit clarification attached to it, such as: No entitlement to government subsidized medical services, housing, schools, food stamps, legal services, day-care, etc. If they can't carry their own weight, or employers who hire them can't pay prevailing wages to support them, then I say NO! To do otherwise shows little separation between the Libertarian Party and the Republicrats.

—HOPE PETTIT
Corvallis, Oregon

First Amendment

I want to respond to the letter from David C. Morris in the August 2004 issue of *LP News*.

[Editor's note: Morris argued that the FCC is right in "trying to clean up television and radio indecency," because the "First Amendment was not designed to protect this filth, which sometimes undermines human dignity." He said further: "I personally feel that many Americans will not start respecting liberty until they first lose their desire to see and hear 'indecent' words and actions.'"]

With the current American attitude, a bloody dead body is considered to be more acceptable than a

naked healthy body. I think that is a very demeaning attitude.

Here is an example: The 9/11 attack was shown on TV several times, and newspapers printed pictures of it.

No TV station or newspaper was penalized or criticized for showing it. Janet Jackson's breast was shown on TV once, and CBS was penalized and criticized for showing it.

Newspapers didn't dare print a picture of it because they knew people would complain if they did. This means that 9/11 was considered to be more acceptable than Janet Jackson's breast.

People who don't like what's on TV should simply turn it off, change the channel, or leave the room.

If someone is being forced to watch, they should direct their anger toward whoever is forcing them to watch, not toward the TV station.

—RICHARD DUBAY
Meriden, Connecticut

Confederate flag

There is not — nor has there ever been — a legitimate defense of slavery. To believe that the South suffered the loss of one out of every four adult men so that Big Daddy plantation owner could sit under the shade of a live oak tree and lord over his slaves while sipping mint juleps and sucking on a cigar is nothing more than intellectual laziness or intellectual dishonesty, or both.

The Confederate flag represents the last time Americans demonstrated the courage and resolve to defy a central government whose growing (and unconstitutional) power and greedy ambitions to dominate everyone were, until that time, unchallenged.

By the way, as uncomfortable as it may be, the U.S. stars and stripes represented a government whose Constitution — ratified in 1789 — protected and condoned slavery until 1861. That's 72 years, for those government school graduates.

Although we Southerners are pretty much used to slanderous remarks and attitudes, they usually are from the "politically correct" (though lazy and ignorant) news media.

The choice is clear: Succumb to ignorance and strive for political correctness, or seek the truth and

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THE MAILBOX

stand up for it when you find it.

—PERRY BEASLEY

Greensboro, Alabama

■ Petroleum prices

Blame high gas prices on an 18-cent federal tax? You've got to be kidding!

Either Badnarik should stick to constitutional law or he is pandering to people who don't know any better. He should be demanding that the cost of the war be amortized by the federal gas tax. That's what the war is about, yes?

It boggles my mind that gas is so cheap. Every year the typical new car buyer is demanding a larger gas hog. Every year national consumption increases despite higher prices. By any economic theory including Ayn Rand economics, each seller should raise his unit price until sales drop or until his marginal profit rate is approaching zero.

It should be obvious that there is a disconnect between retail and wholesale pricing. Drive into most any small town and every station is posting the same price. Only in the large cities is there any price competition for customers.

Crude oil is a commodity that is traded on the international market. If an oil producer has a contract to deliver at a price, that is what he does. It doesn't matter what the current price is. If the producer has an excess of oil he fills a tanker with it. The unit cost of transportation is so small that owner doesn't care where the tanker off loads. He delivers to the highest bidder. Why should it be otherwise?

Anyone think BP cares what Americans pay for gas? Or Royal Dutch Shell?

—BILL WALD

Snohomish County, Washington

■ Jesse Ventura

Is it necessary to scrutinize every single decision or political opinion of potential candidates to make sure they are 100 percent pure libertarian, or do we want to gain exposure, financial stability, members and reputation? I thought that the goal was to expand and bring our message to a larger audience.

Members who continue to discuss whether our candidates are "Libertarian enough" miss the bigger picture. They seem content to remain on the fringe. We must stop labeling people as "big government bureaucrats" simply because they slightly differ on issues or have done something here or there which would be contrary to our ideals. Upon reading Mr. Ventura's books and listening to him speak, it is clear that he leans heavily Libertarian.

—TONY CORRENTI

West Islip, New York

■ Property rights

I'm disappointed in the recent articles and letters belittling private property rights and other libertarian

principles as the solution to various ills, and instead advocating failed collectivist solutions.

David Rodman has evidently not read the ample libertarian and objectivist literature that describe the use of property rights to resolve every human conflict, including rape and murder.

Contrary to Mr. Rodman, we ARE severable from each other. We are individuals. We own ourselves. We can distinguish between the property of one and another with the edge of a laser.

If I alter the natural water flow on my property such that your downstream property is swamped with mud, it's my responsibly to remove my trespassing property and restore the damaged property. Given the cost, I'll likely correct the drainage on my property to preclude future trespasses.

If my vehicle makes noise or pollutes the air of a toll road owner, the owner will demand compensation from me to mitigate the compensation he must pay to the owners of property affected by the noise and air pollution from his road. That may motivate me to change the tires or muffler on my vehicle, or get a more fuel-efficient vehicle.

If I own a pet, I also own its ex-

cretions and am responsible for any damage they cause to the property of others.

If my cigarette smoke trespasses on your clothing or body, you may demand compensation. It may not be worth the effort to you, or you may fear retribution for the noise you make with your power saw, but some will make a business of getting compensation for such fleeting or minor trespasses.

When the successes of such businesses are publicized, even the inconsiderate will behave responsibly.

And so on.

David Helfter doesn't want to end welfare for a certain class of people.

P-L-E-A-S-E! There must be no social or business subsidies. There must be no subsidies of any kind! Subsidies are immoral. They are group privileges paid with theft. One justifies others.

In New Zealand, the subsidy spiral worked in reverse when those whose subsidies were terminated demanded that the subsidies that others still enjoyed be terminated as well.

Bob Dostal wants to raise the gas tax. He wants to steal from everyone rather than seek compensation from the trespassers to subsidize health care costs of everyone rather than those injured. He wants to

raise the gas tax to continue subsidizing the failed concept of mass transit rather than let property rights and an unregulated market work their magic.

The LP News should not publish such letters or articles, and the authors should be educated as to why their work was not published. If it is published, the editor should also publish the libertarian solution.

Continuing to publish such nonsense without correction will only confuse libertarian newcomers.

—BILL HOLMES

Carlsbad, California

■ Illegitimate welfare

The Forum section in the September LP News attracted my attention; all three letters were in support of open borders.

I worked as a caseworker for the Texas Department of Human Services in the San Antonio region for twenty-one years; the majority of the time I was interviewing people applying for Medicaid, food stamps, welfare checks, and utility assistance. I met plenty of immigrants who had neither the practical skills nor desire to support themselves or their children.

One Forum letter pointed out Michael Tanner's statement that immigrants are on welfare at a lower rate than the rest of America. I may

be inclined to technically agree with that statement. I interviewed hundreds of teenagers and young women who entered the U.S.A. just weeks prior to the date they were to have their baby. If someone from Mexico immigrates to the U.S.A. and has five children during the next seven years that are born in the USA that is one immigrant on welfare to five citizens on welfare. Therefore Tanner's statement (as quoted) can be considered technically correct.

People who grow up on the welfare system will not bite the hand that feeds them, when they reach voting age or the immigrants are granted citizenship/voting rights, they will vote to increase the size of the government. We cannot decrease the size of government by facilitating the system that is creating greater dependence on government. Open borders may sound good in lofty theoretical terms but in practice it will destroy more liberty than it creates.

—MIKE BURRIS

Austin, Texas

■ Platform rewrite

In "Platform reformat continues: The Immigration Plank" (August 2004 LP News), George Squyres states: "Borders must be controlled and immigration must be regulated."



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THE MAILBOX

Libertarians believe everyone has the right to be unharrassed unless they violate someone else's rights. However, Squyres has found an exception to this: individuals crossing U.S. borders. Then, according to him, they can be stopped and forced to provide proof of health, employment, etc. Their liberty goes out the window.

Perhaps Squyres has not gotten the message that government

doesn't work. There has not been a single government program that has succeeded, but he imagines the war on border crossers will be the first.

—MICHAEL R. EDELSTEIN
San Francisco, California

■ One-party system

The article by Mr. Cloud [August 2004 Libertarian Solution] was very informative. He really does his

homework. But I have a few things I wanted to bring up.

I know that it takes more energy to make a gallon of alcohol than the alcohol produces. If the farmers used the waste materials of the crops — the stalks, etc. — it wouldn't be so bad. But I talked to a farmer, and they use only the ears of corn. Can anybody tell me why they can't use the "waste" materials?

I don't think giving individuals tax breaks to use energy-saving devices is so bad. It encourages individual independence and tax

savings. However, I concede that Mr. Cloud was talking more about [giving tax breaks on] the corporate level.

I would like to mention Diesel engines: The technology is well developed, they take less maintenance, last longer, and have a flatter torque curve than regular gas engines, and they get better gas mileage. They also use a less-refined, thus cheaper, fuel. They compare favorably in emissions, also. But you seldom see those engines in cars, only in large trucks.

—DAN SHEARD
Amarillo, Texas

■ Nuclear waste

I am a retired engineer who worked in the environmental clean-up programs for eight years, so I am familiar with the arguments regarding nuclear power and waste disposal. This is to offer a proposed solution to one of the major objections to building more nuclear power plants, which is, what we could do with the radioactive waste.

The waste can be vitrified, i.e., heated and mixed with other materials, then encapsulated in a glass matrix. This will prevent the waste from being dissolved by water and migrating away from where it is disposed. This technology already exists and has been used.

Then, holes may be drilled deep in the sea floor along the boundary where the sea floor slides beneath the continental plate. These holes may be drilled using existing oil exploration technology and equipment.

The vitrified radioactive waste may be stored in metal cylinders and inserted into the holes hundreds of feet deep in the sea floor. The waste would then be carried deep into the earth over the years by the action of the sea floor as it descends toward the earth's magma, which is already naturally radioactive. And if that does not assuage the irrational fears of the public, water itself is an excellent shield against radiation.

This is very different from storing our radioactive waste in the zone where people live — the biosphere — such as Yucca Mountain. This is actually a proposal for disposing of nuclear waste.

—RODGER JUMP
Conifer, Colorado

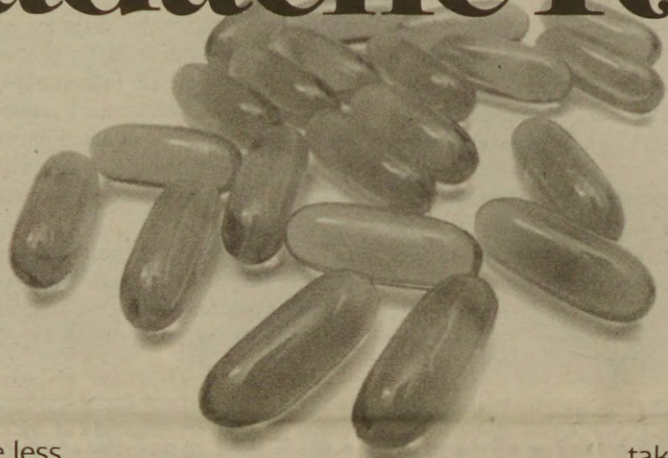
■ Double-talk

President Bush often sounds good at first glance, but horrible at second glance. In accepting the Republican nomination he said: "Many of our most fundamental systems — the tax code, health coverage, pension plans, worker training — were created for a world of yesterday, not tomorrow. We will transform these systems." This sounds great. It recognizes that government programs are faulty and counter productive. But while transformation is indeed needed, it is needed in terms of cutbacks and abolishment, not re-engineering the interference in the economy and our lives. The positive transformations people envision are not likely to be those Bush envisions.

Likewise, "Government should help people improve their lives, not run their lives," sounds great. But is "improve" different from "run" in practice? Government shouldn't be seen in terms of helping people at all, but as protecting them. We need government that promotes prosperity and individual freedom by securing an environment for free markets, and lets people improve their own lives.

—JACK GARDNER
Austin, Texas

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— Steve Dennett (Retired)
McLean, Virginia

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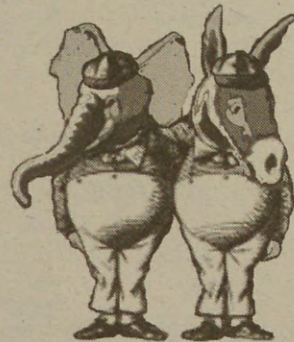
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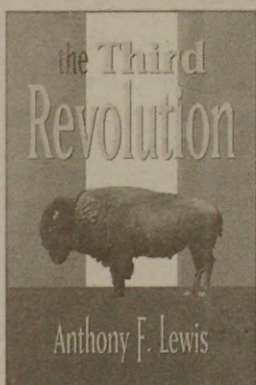
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UPCOMING

October 2, 2004

New Hampshire State LP Convention, Concord Country Club, Concord, New Hampshire. Luncheon speaker Fred Bramante, chairman of New Hampshire state board of education. Dinner keynote speaker Mary Ruwart, author of *Healing our World and Short Answers to Tough Questions*. For more information or to register, call 800-559-LPNH; e-mail Rhonda Keiper at treasurer@lpnh.org; or go to www.lpnh.org.



■ Ruwart

October 7, 2004

Presidential candidates debate, at the University of Texas's West Mall in Austin, at 11:30 a.m. Libertarian candidate Michael Badnarik and David Cobb of the Green Party will hold their second debate. Ralph Nader, George Bush and John Kerry have also been invited. Sponsored by the Libertarian Longhorns, the LP affiliate on the University of Texas campus. For more information, contact Longhorn Libertarians president Ben Woosley at UTLiberty@gmail.com or by phone at 512-576-2206.

October 9-10, 2004

Freedom Summit 2004, Phoenix, Arizona, at the Best Western Grace Inn at Ahwatukee. An annual seminar "dedicated to promoting and advancing human freedom." Speakers to include author Alan Bock; Don Boudreaux of George Mason University; investor and author Doug Casey; author Jim Peron; Justin Raimondo of the Ludwig von Mises Institute; Dr. Mary Ruwart; pro-Second Amendment rights activist Claire Wolfe; and others. For more information, go to www.freedomsummit.com or call 480-755-7110, ext. 101.

October 16-17, 2004

"Art of Libertarian Persuasion" Seminar, Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, San Francisco, California. Hosted by the Advocates for Self-Government. Speakers include Michael Cloud (author, *Secrets of Libertarian Persuasion*), Harry Browne (1996 and 2000 LP presidential candidate), and Sharon Harris (president, Advocates for Self-Government). For more information, visit www.theadvocates.org/seminars.htm or call 800-932-1776.



■ Browne

October 22, 2004

Lessons from the Iraq War: Reconciling Liberty and Security, at the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C. A conference to discuss the Iraq War and to understand the war's implications for future foreign policy actions. Speakers include several policy writers for the Cato Institute, along with representatives of The Objectivist Center, the Independent Institute, *Reason*, the Future of Freedom Foundation, *National Review* and others. For information or to register, call 202-218-4633, e-mail events@cato.org, or go to www.cato-university.org. The conference will also be broadcast live on the Internet.

October 28-31, 2004

Cato University Fall Weekend Seminar, "Arguments for Liberty: How to Defend Individual Rights and Limited Government," Le Chateau Frontenac, Quebec City, Canada. Sponsored by the Cato Institute. Speakers include Tom Palmer (director, Cato University), Don Boudreaux (Department of Economics, George Mason University), and Robert A. Sirico (Acton Institute). Visit www.cato-university.org to learn more.



■ Palmer

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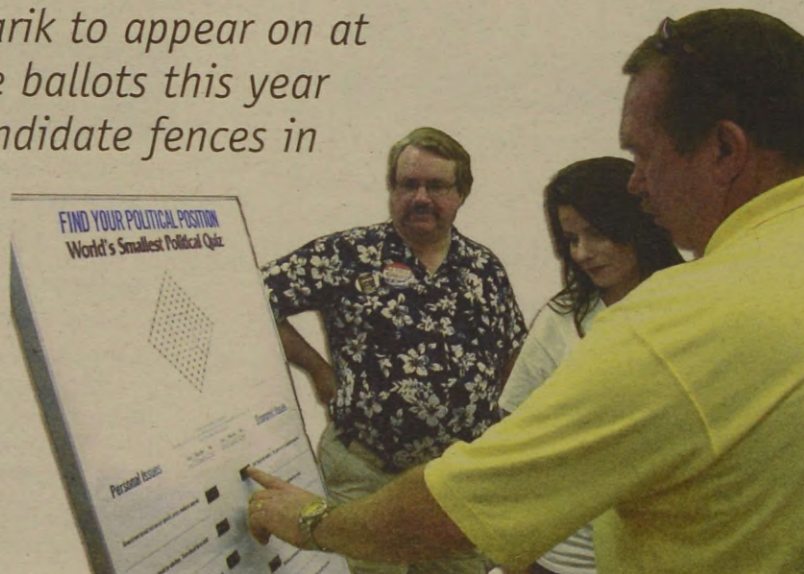
IN SIDE

■ **PAGE 1** Badnarik to appear on at least 48 state ballots this year

■ **PAGE 1** LP candidate fences in Olympics

■ **PAGE 2** Libertarian elected to city council

■ **PAGE 16** New feature looks at LP history



FIRST WORD

"Thumbs up to local residents who were willing to sign nominating papers to permit Libertarian candidates' names to appear on the November ballots. Local Libertarians — as well as all fair-minded Republicans and Democrats — should press for an electoral process that can more effectively include more viable candidate than the current two-party system. Today's politics excludes many current would-be candidates by giving the impression that big money and incumbency — not strong principles and ideas — win elections."

—ERIE (PA.) TIMES-NEWS, August 31, 2004

"The Libertarian Party is the third largest political party in the United States, and its success is not surprising to many whom have found themselves less than enthused with alternative choices listed on this November's ballot."

—ALICE HUSAK, *Collegiate Times* (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University), September 15, 2004